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Harper to Putin: Get out of Ukraine

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A column of tanks drives from rebel-held territory to Donetsk near the eastern Ukrainian town of Shakhtarsk. New unidentified armored columns rumbled toward the pro-Moscow rebel stronghold in eastern Ukraine as fears grew of a return to all-out fighting in the war-torn region. (AFP/Dimitar Dilkoff)

U.S. official: Washington should consider lethal aid to Kyiv

(RFE/RL)—A senior aide to U.S. President Barack Obama has said that the United States should reconsider its policy of not providing lethal aid to Ukraine, which is grappling with pro-Russian separatists in the east of the country.

Tony Blinken, the deputy national security adviser, cited "serious violations" by Moscow of the Minsk agreement.

Signed by Russia, Ukraine and rebels from Ukrainian separatist regions of Donetsk and Luhansk on September 5 in the Belarus capital, the agreement imposed a cease-fire and set out steps toward peace.

Blinken said providing Kyiv with lethal military aid may prompt Moscow "to think twice and deter them from further action."

Blinken was speaking on November 19 at a congressional hearing on his nomination to be Obama's deputy secretary of state.

Analysts say providing defensive military equipment to Ukraine has broad support in Congress.

Ukraine has accused Russia of sending soldiers and weapons to help separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine launch a new offensive in a conflict that has already killed more than 4,100 people.

NATO has accused Russia of sending tanks and troops to eastern Ukraine in recent days to support the separatists.

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said on November 18 that there had been a "serious military build-up" both in eastern Ukraine and on the Russian side of the border, and urged Moscow to pull back its forces.

Russia backs the separatists but denies it is directly involved in the conflict.

Blinken's comments come a day

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Canada Shevchenko Foundation

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PHOTO – MARCO LEVYTSKY

Tribute to Maidan

A moving tribute to the Maidain was performed by the My Ukrainian Dance Academy at the opening of the Ukrainian Museum of Canada Alberta Branch's "Unity in Diversity: the Ukrainian Mosaic" exhibit at St. John's Ukrainian Cultural Centre, November 2. For more see page 9 of this issue.

Prystaiko raps Canada's low level of military support for Ukraine

By Jennifer Chevalier, *CBC News*

The Ukrainian ambassador to Canada says the West is turning away from helping his country for fear of taking on Russia.

In a frank, final interview with CBC News before he leaves his post in Ottawa, Vadym Prystaiko spoke with frustration about the level of military support offered to Ukraine in its battle with pro-Russian separatists, compared with the coalition mission in Iraq.

"You're bombing, you're sending F-18s… Iraq's government is asking for help and you're sending everything. Then the Ukrainian government asks you the same… and you tell us what? No."

Canada has sent non-lethal military aid to Ukraine, including goggles, helmets and protective vests. Canada has also pledged more than $55 million to Ukraine in the form of aid, training and election monitoring.

In September, newly-elected Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko visited Canada and addressed Parliament.

The same day, Prime Minister Stephen Harper reiterated Canada's "steadfast" support for Ukraine "in the face of the Putin regime's persistent military aggression."

Ambassador Prystaiko says it's obvious why Canada and other coalition countries are willing to take on ISIS but not help Ukraine fight pro-Russian separatists in the country's east.

But he cautions Canada against this approach. "Some seriously believe that feeding Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova to the bear will make

Cont. on P. 3

PHOTO – MARCO LEVYTSKY

Sing, Sing, Sing, Dance, Dance, Dance

A Jitterbug performed by the Dunai Dancers to the tune of Benny Goodman's "Sing, Sing, Sing" was one of the highlight of the Verkhovyna Song & Dance Ensemble's presentation of "The Dream" at the Dow Centennial Centre in Fort Saskatchewan, November 1. For more, see page 8 of this issue.

Олена Шкрум (центр) на передвиборчій кампанії разом з Юлією Тимошенко (праворуч)

26-літня Олена Шкрум про своє обрання до парламенту

Cont. from p. 1

Працювала помічником депутата в парламенті Канади

Марічка Набока, *Радіо Свобода*

Нові депутати мають привнести у Верховну Раду прозорість спілкування з виборцями та зруйнувати підвалини старої системи. Так вважає 26-літня Олена Шкрум – 5-й номер у Всеукраїнському об'єднанні «Батьківщина». Вона не є членом партії, і потрапила в список за відкритим конкурсом. І одним із перших законопроектів планує відкрити парламент для громадян. Говорить Шкрум:

Питання не стільки у віці, не стільки в знаннях, скільки в бажанні щось робити, в незалежності від олігархів чи коштів. Це буде означати більше ніж вік чи досвід. Хоча, звісно, досвід потрібен. Міністр закордонних справ Австрії зайняв свою посаду в 26 років, і він був одним із перших, хто підтримав Євромайдан і Україну.

Я одночасно закінчувала Сорбонну і писала магістерську в Інституті міжнародних відносин Університету Шевченка. А в Кембридж я намагалася вступити тричі. Мрія вчитися в Кембриджі була в мене років із 7, коли почала читати перші твори англійських письменників.

Освіта в Сорбонні – безкоштовна, я заплатила 500 євро фактично на бібліотеку. Я вчилася і одночасно стажувалася, це було оплачуване стажування. А в Кембриджі я отримала повноцінну стипендію на навчання, книжки, харчування і проживання.

В Європі інші традиції парламентаризму, там більше відкритості, прозорості спілкування з виборцями – це все те, що ми маємо принести в новий парламент. Це в нас унікальний шанс, коли є така політична катапульта молодих людей – з громадянської діяльності, в 26 років можна потрапити за відкритим конкурсом до парламенту

Євромайдан зробив так, щоб досвід молодих прогресивних людей став потрібним. Це в нас унікальний шанс, коли є така політична катапульта молодих людей – з громадянської діяльності, в 26 років можна потрапити за відкрити конкурсом до парламенту. Це раз в житті, раз в історії, і це величезна відповідальність.

Я є учасником спільноти «Професійний уряд», це випускники закордонних вишів, що готові йти в політику, держслужбу, реформувати державу. «Батьківщина» до нас звернулася перша – з дуже конкретною пропозицією: на вибори поставити деяких людей від «Професійного уряду» за конкурсом у списки. Це здавалося абсолютно нереальним. І за два дні до з'їзду мені та Олексію Рябчину запропонували місця. Це було дуже неочікувано, було непросте рішення, і ми не знали, що це буде перша десятка.

Якщо ми хочемо незалежну владу, то треба робити нормальну зарплату депутатам. Можливо, прив'язувати її до мінімальної – щоб була мотивація збільшувати мінімальну зарплату.

Першим моїм законопроектом буде відкритий парламент для громадян. Майже півмільйона переселенців – це гуманітарна катастрофа за рамками будь якої європейської держави

Я вже є співавтором закону про вимушено переміщених осіб як громадський активіст і діяч. Майже півмільйона переселенців – це гуманітарна катастрофа за рамками будь якої європейської держави. Також я напрацьовую окремі питання судової реформи і державної служби. Тут питання, як мінімум, відкритого конкурсу – щоб конкурс не писався під конкретну особу, як це зараз є.

Кожен депутат повинен голосувати за своїми переконаннями. Нема жодного закону чи положення регламенту, щоб зобов'язував мене голосувати всупереч моїм переконаннями. Питання в тому, що ідучи в партію, ми маємо обговорити програму щоб переконання збігалися.

Із Тимошенко спілкування відбувається легко і досить часто. В нашій партії конструктивні відкриті дискусії, ми, незважаючи на наш вік чи статус, запрошені на всі партійні наради, і маємо можливість переконувати колег.

Щоб увійти в партію, треба бути морально готовим. Можливо, за кілька років, можливо вже дуже скоро я буду готова і захочу увійти до цих лав. Але ніхто мене не буде до цього змушувати.

У нас депутат, на жаль, це персонаж радянського поклоніння, до нього неможливо потрапити чи зателефонувати (особливо, якщо говоримо про регіоналів) мейл внікуди на адресу з сайту Ради може до тебе не повернутися ніколи. Він охороняється 5 охоронцями і їздить на БМВ.

Я працювала помічником депутата в парламенті Канади. Я була в кабінеті, за двері від мене був депутат. Ми разом ходили обідати, йшли на роботу, їздили на комітети громадським транспортом, він користувався велосипедом. Спілкувався з помічниками як з рівноправними, хоч ми не є канадцями і його виборцями. Приймав і студентів і голів ГО, був абсолютно відкритий для спілкування. Це нормальні критерії для всіх європейських депутатів, депутатів Канади.

Потрібне розуміння, що депутат насправді є представником народу. І неможливо представляти когось, якщо ти з ним не спілкуєшся кожного дня, не бачиш мейлів, соцмереж, то ти просто не розумієш потреби.

Цю відкритість ми маємо принести в парламент. Ми будемо користуватися Фейсбуком, мати відкриті дні, щоб люди могли до нас прийти поспілкуватися. Я працюю зараз над створенням свого сайту, куди людина зможе зайти, відкрити календар і записатися на прийом як до її народного депутата.

Цей парламент є перехідним. В парламент потрапили і ті, хто голосував за закони 16 січня. Буде важко з ними працювати особисто морально. Цей парламент не є ідеальним, але він є таким парламентом під час війни, який має перехідне значення – щоб зруйнувати підвалини старої

Для нас головне, не стільки зараз все змінити, скільки почати проводити реформи, зруйнувати стару бюрократичну систему зсередини. Тут не тільки питання еволюції ради, еволюції бюрократичних процедур, але й партії зсередини. На нас покладається велика надія, в тому числі в «Батьківщині» (як на людей, які бачили, як це робиться за кордоном, маємо нове бачення, у Фейсбуці і Твіттері кожен день щось робимо), що ми зможемо змінити адміністрацію партії. Змусити когось користуватися Твіттером і Фейсбуком і так доносити інформацію.

Депутатів у новій Раді, яким до 35 років, більше ніж тридцять. Якщо ми будемо пробивними і показуватимемо приклад єднання з різними політичними силами саме в питанні проведення реформ, то я думаю цей парламент буде дуже успішним. Інакше він просто недоживе. Адже зараз така ситуація, коли вирішується питання самого існування держави. І цю відповідальність треба усвідомлювати.

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Goldring continues campaign to unite Ukraine's Orthodoxy

(UkrNews)—Edmonton East MP Peter Goldring is continuing with his campaign to unite Ukraine's Orthodox Churches under one jurisdiction which would be independent of Moscow.

Goldring, a parishioner of St. Barbara's Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Edmonton, told Ukrainian News on Nov. 5, that he had most recently met with Bishop Ilarion of the Western Diocese of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada and that meeting went very well as did the other ones he has held.

"There is general consensus and this is even from Father Sergei and Bishop Job of the Russian Orthodox (Church), that the churches should be brought together in Ukraine and how to do that is what I am working my way through the various churches here, the various bishops here, including Bishop Motiuk as well to get the Ukrainian Catholic input on the direction that I am taking. What do they think about it. And also whether they think the chance s of it being successful are," he said.

Goldring said the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church is quite interested in such a proposal because "they are looking at it from an historical basis. To bring real solidarity to the area the Orthodoxies simply must be brought together."

His next step will be to meet with Orthodox Metropolitans in New York and then he will go to Constantinople to meet with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to put forward a proposal get his opinion on the subject.

Goldring says he views the unification of Ukraine's three Orthodox Churches, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate, as "repatriation to Kyiv" because the original church was in Kyivan Rus and only moved to Moscow when the Mongols occupied Ukraine.

Goldring is also urging Canada to join the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO) which includes 25 countries and bring the unification proposal to the table.

He admits getting the three Orthodox Churches in Ukraine to unite will be difficult but raising awareness of the issue will go a long way to encourage it and addressing it in the IAO would be very beneficial, which is why "we simply must have our parliamentarians as part of this group."

"We all know what the Russian Orthodox Church has been doing in the Crimea and in the eastern part of Ukraine and there is a real need for this," he added.

Prystaiko raps Canada's low level of military support for Ukraine

Cont. from P. 1

him quiet… satisfy him so he won't go further."

Prystaiko says Ukraine had the same attitude towards Georgia, when in 2008 the former Soviet republic faced a nearly identical situation with Russian tanks and troops in their territory, supporting two breakaway regions.

He says Ukraine helped Georgia, but not enough for it to defeat Russia or keep control of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. And now, he says, it's Ukraine's turn.

"Everybody is thinking the same thing. We will help Ukraine, but not that much."

After postings in Canada, the U.S. and a role on Ukraine's NATO negotiating team, he has been asked personally by the president to return home to run the Ukrainian foreign ministry.

However, his appointment as deputy foreign minister cannot be confirmed until the new Ukrainian government is in place in December.

A frequent guest on CBC News Network's Power & Politics and other media outlets during his posting, Prystaiko admits he has caused controversy in Canada with his outspoken opinions.

But he says anyone whose nation is at war "can't be 100 per cent fair or neutral or wise in what they say."

In July, the ambassador publicly complained that the Canadian government had not yet delivered on a promise made in March to loan Ukraine more than $200 million.

The ambassador is unrepentant about his criticisms of the delay, blaming "low-ranking bureaucrats" for advising Harper that Canada could offer the money, but then getting hung up on clauses that prevent Canada from giving loans or loan guarantees to countries where there is civil unrest or civil war.

"It's bullshit. Either you tell your prime minister, you know what, we lied to you, it's not possible. Or you make it happen."

A spokesman for the minister of foreign affairs said in a statement that the loan to Ukraine was provided under Section 8.3 of the Bretton Woods and Related Agreements Act. "The loan agreement between Canada and Ukraine stipulates that none of the loan shall be used, directly or indirectly, to fund purchases or activities which are lethal in nature," Adam Hodge said.

The $200-million loan was eventually signed in September, during the visit of Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to Canada.

According to the latest situation report from the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, more than 4,000 people have died in fighting in eastern Ukraine.

Last month, the UN reported that more than 300 people have died since Ukraine and pro-Russian separatists signed the peace deal on Sept. 5.

The ambassador is gloomy about the so-called ceasefire. "How long do you think Ukrainians will tolerate this truce? We're losing and losing and losing," Prystaiko says.

It is this deteriorating situation that leads ambassador Prystaiko to wonder if Ukraine might have to consider letting the eastern part of the country separate. Unlike Canada, he says, there is no mechanism in the Ukrainian constitution to allow for a region to hold an independence vote. But a nation-wide referendum could be held.

"I believe there's a point when Ukrainians can be asked: people, what do you think?"

"Do we really need them? I know that… no president would be able to utter this because that would be the end of his career. The opposition would have his throat."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper holds Jimbelung the koala on the margins of the G-20 Leaders' Summit. Photo by Andrew Taylor/G-20 Australia)

Harper tells Putin to 'get out of Ukraine'

(Bloomberg)—Russian President Vladimir Putin got a blunt message when he approached Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper for a handshake at the Group of 20 summit in Brisbane, Australia, Nov. 15.

"I guess I'll shake your hand but I have only one thing to say to you: you need to get out of Ukraine," Harper told Putin, the prime minister's spokesman Jason MacDonald said in an e-mail.

Putin's response to the comment wasn't positive, MacDonald said, without elaborating. Putin and Harper talked briefly, according to Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov.

"Indeed Harper told Putin that Russia should leave Ukraine," Peskov said by phone today in Brisbane. "Putin told him that this is impossible because they are not there."

Asked about the tone of the meeting between the two leaders, Peskov said "it was within the bounds of decency."

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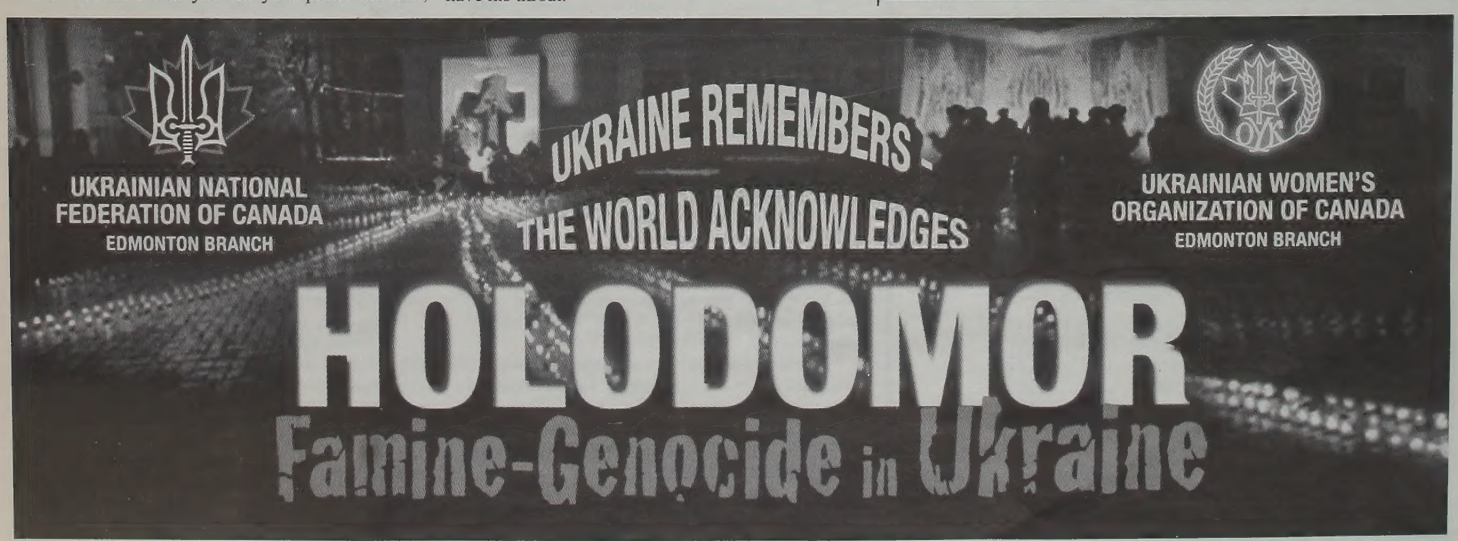

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св. п.

Ярослава Розумного, д-р філ.

Український літературознавець, професор канадських, американських та европейських університетів, почесний професор та співучасник заснування Національного Університету "Києво-Могилянська Академія", довголітній голова Славістичного Відділу та член Сенату Манітобського Університету, колишній декан філософічного факультету Українського Вільного Університету, президент наукових, культурних і громадських установ (УВАН Канада, Осередок Української Культури і Освіти, Прихильники РУХ-у та Інститут Маркіяна Шашкевича в Вінніпезі), член Наукової Ради Української Дослідної Програми при Іллинойському Університеті, автор монографій і численних статей з української літератури різних періодів та загальної українознавчої проблематики.

У глибокому смутку залишились:
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Хай буде Вічна Його Пам'ять!

В України з'явився шанс отримати американську зброю

(Голос Америки)—Колишній сенатор-республіканець Гордон Гамфрі у статті для впливової «Вашингтон Пост» пише, що, за його підрахунками, 47 зі 100 сенаторів у новобраному Сенаті публічно висловлювалися за надання Україні сучасної зброї. Сьогодні в американському Конгресі зареєстровано два законопроекти, що містять надання військової допомоги Україні – «Акт щодо допомоги Україні в питаннях безпеки» та «Акт на підтримку свободи України». Для їх ухвалення Сенатом необхідно як мінімум 50 голосів. Аби унеможливити вето президента – 67 або менше. Гамфрі вважає, що серед тих законодавців, які на цю тему публічно не висловлювалися, чимало сенаторів підтримає надання Україні зброї. Хтось – з власних переконань. А хтось, як республіканці-новачки, слідуючи партійній лінії.

Також Гамфрі радить сформувати в Сенаті оперативну групу по Україні, яка б щодня працювала над цим питанням. Саме так йому та іншим сенаторам у 80-му році вдалося домогтися збільшення гуманітарної допомоги та надання зброї афганцям, які воювали з Радянським Союзом.

Професор Г'юстонського університету та дослідник Інституту Гувера в Стенфорді Пол Родерик Грегорі у виданні «Форбс» також стверджує, що новий склад Сенату зможе добитися зміни рішення щодо військової допомоги Україні. Як саме, він пояснив в інтерв'ю Голосу Америки.

«Сенат набагато більш залучений в питання зовнішньої політики, ніж Палата представників. За демократичної більшості спікер Гарі Рід контролював, які законопроекти будуть голосувати. І він, як правило, не виносив ніяких законопроектів, які можуть поставити Барака Обаму в незручне становище чи розколоти Демократичну партію, яка має дуже сильну антивоєнну фракцію. Тепер, коли республіканці у більшості, новий спікер Мітч Макконел може виносити на розгляд будь-які законопроекти», – сказав він в інтерв'ю по Скайпу.

Грегорі очікує, що за обидва українські законопроекти Сенат та Палата представників проголосують з потужною двопартійною більшістю. А президент не зможе накласти на них вето.

«Беручи до уваги позицію демократів, які підтримують надання зброї Україні – і це дуже відомі демократи – коли законопроект потрапить на стіл президента з голосами 60-65 сенаторів, то він не зможе його заветувати. А голосів може буди навіть достатньо, щоб унеможливити вето президента», – пояснив він.

Таким чином, говорить він, вдасться подолати позицію впливового антивоєнного крила Демократичної партії, на чию думку покладається Барак Обама.

«Я не буду називати імен, але це сенатори і конгресмени з Каліфорнії, Нью-Йорку, Коннектикуту, деякі з Середнього Заходу, хто проти будь-яких військових дій будь-де в світі. Вони відчувають, що Обама не йде достатньо далеко, аби вивести американських військових з решти світу. Це особи, які сформувалися на протестах проти В'єтнаму. Вони вірять, що військова допомога піде на користь великим корпораціям чи якимось іншим інтересам. Ця фракція відіграє дуже велику роль в електоральній коаліції Обами. Треба розуміти, що в Республіканський партії є власна фракція ізоляціоністів, але вона менш впливова ніж антивоєнна фракція в Демократичній», – сказав Грегорі.

За словами дослідника, саме подібне мислення є основною причиною, чому Україна так і не отримала від США озброєння – а не вплив російської пропаганди.

«Російська пропаганда RussiaToday має набагато менший вплив на мислення в США, ніж в Європі. Деякі професори, експерти з питань Росії в США вважають, що дії Путіна викликані втручанням Заходу в сферу інтересів Росії. Мовляв, це наша провина і ми повинні його розуміти. Це має більший вплив, ніж російська пропаганда», – каже він.

Грегорі очікує, що рух по українських законопроектах в Сенаті почнеться в середині січня. Він погоджується, що це запізно, але це може відіграти вирішальну роль саме в той момент, коли критична маса росіян зрозуміє, що авантюри Кремля їм занадто дорого коштують – у невиплачених пенсіях, високих цінах та людських життях.

Чи отримає Україна поліцію?

Левко Стек, *Радіо Свобода*

Міністр внутрішніх справ Арсен Аваков оприлюднив перші документи, щодо майбутньої реформи силового відомства, після якої міліція повинна перетворитись в поліцію європейського зразка. Стратегію розвитку органів внутрішніх справ розробляли спільно з експертною радою, до якої потрапили правозахисники, очільники МВС, громадські діячі і закордонні експерти. Кабмін уже схвалив документи. Реформу планують в два етапи, а триватиме вона, щонайменше три роки. Внаслідок змін має бути скорочена значна частина особового складу, ліквідовано певні підрозділи, змінено структуру і систему управління міністерством. Втім, експерти не впевнені, що у теперішнього керівництва країни є політична воля для жорстких та дієвих змін у відомстві.

Вже до кінця цього року стратегія передбачає скорочення та перерозподіл працівників МВС. Щоправда, поки про конкретні цифри автори не говорять. Загалом, вони ставлять за мету довести число міліціонерів до європейських норм. Наразі в структурах міністерства працює 261 тисяча осіб, а це в розрахунку на 100 тисяч населення майже в півтора рази вище за середні показники в Європі.

Також мають ліквідувати підрозділ транспортної міліції, ветеринарної міліції, спеціальних підрозділів по боротьбі з організованою злочинністю. ДАІ планують позбавити функцій з надання адміністративних послуг. У Хмельницькому до кінця лютого триватиме експеримент щодо об'єднання ДАІ з партульно-постовою службою та міліцією громадської безпеки.

Як розповів заступник міністра Микола Величкович, в МВС вже відзначають чималий спротив запропонованим змінам. Тому кадрових чисток не уникнути.

«В будь-якому разі є закон про очищення влади. Відбувається люстрація. Низка керівників, які потрапляють під дію цього закону вже звільнилися. Частина ще буде звільнена, тому що протягом листопада-грудня центральний апарат Міністерства внутрішніх справ має бути переглянутий. З весни також територіальні підрозділи мають бути піддані перегляду за цими критеріями», – пояснив заступник міністра Микола Величкович.

За словами авторів стратегії розвитку міністерства, вона має значні відмінності від усіх попередніх схожих документів, яким судилось залишитись деклараціями. Зокрема, нівелюється вплив міністра на керівників підрозділів. Автори приділили чималу увагу деполітизації міністерства.

Так, після впровадження реформи міністром буде призначатись політична фігура, а шефом поліції – кадровий силовик з досвідом роботи щонайменше 20 років. До складу МВС мають увійти: Національна поліція, Національна гвардія, Державна міграційна служба, Державна прикордонна служба й Державна служба з надзвичайних ситуацій.

«Поліція, як і всі структурні підрозділи Міністерства внутрішніх справ, отримують самостійність в кадровій і бюджетній політиці і міністр не може наказати напряму директору чи шефу національної поліції робите те чи інше. Він може йому рекомендувати. Тобто, поліція буде більше підкорятись закону, аніж політичним вимогам міністра», – розповів співавтор стратегії реформування Олег Мартиненко.

Також реформою передбачений жорсткий контроль за роботою поліцейських. Так, службові машини і навіть формений одяг співробітників мають бути обладнані відеокамерами. Хочуть впровадити безготівкову систему сплати штрафів, встановити термінали для реєстрації відвідувачів у частині приміщень МВС.

Співробітники міліції мають отримати ідентифікаційні жетони. На ньому буде записаний особистий номер, що складатиметься з шести цифр і за яким можна буде безпомилково визначити особу працівника МВС.

Щоправда, експерти не впевнені у тому, що керівництво країни готове втілити задекларовані реформи і деполітизувати відомство, таким чином відмовившись від впливу на силовиків.

«Якщо дивитись на логіку процесів, то ця влада не лише не відмовляється від цих всіх преференцій, а навпаки намагається до-максимуму законсервувати уламки старої системи. Виходячи з цього я роблю висновок, що нинішня політична верхівка не готова відмовлятися від старих методів роботи з МВС», – вважає політолог Юрій Палійчук.

Mad Vlad takes quick exit from G20 Conference

(RFE/RL)—Russian President Vladimir Putin flew out of Australia on November 16 before the end of the G20 summit after facing harsh criticism from world leaders over Russia's role in the Ukrainian crisis.

Putin broke protocol by giving a press conference to a select group of reporters and pre-empting remarks to the media by the host leader, Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott.

He then left the country before the G20's final communique was issued.

Earlier, the Kremlin had denied reports that Putin would leave the summit early as a result of the concerted barrage of international criticism he has faced there over Moscow's support for pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine.

Putin continues to deny that Russian troops and heavy weapons have been deployed in Ukraine.

In his press conference, which was broadcast on Russian television, he complained that he was being unfairly criticized for events beyond his control.

However, he praised what he called a "constructive" atmosphere at the gathering, saying "some of our views do not coincide, but the discussions were complete, constructive, and very helpful."

He also thanked Abbott for hosting the event, who has strongly criticized him in recent days, for providing a "nice, welcoming, and good working atmosphere" at the two-day summit.

Putin, who once described himself as working like a "galley-slave," said that he left early because he wanted to be rested before returning to work in Moscow on November 17.

"On Monday I must go to work. I hope to have four or five hours to sleep," Putin said shortly before leaving Brisbane. "I told this to Tony and he was very understanding, so I didn't give it a second thought."

Putin's departure came after President Barack Obama, Abbott, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe issued a joint statement saying they are united in "opposing Russia's purported annexation of Crimea and its actions to destabilize eastern Ukraine, and bringing to justice those responsible for the downing of Flight MH17."

Russia is accused of supplying pro-Russian separatists with the BUK surface-to-air missile system that is suspected of shooting down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 in July — killing all 298 people aboard.

On November 15, Obama said the downing of MH17 demonstrated that "Russia's aggression against Ukraine" is "a threat to the world."

A state-run Russian television channel on November 14 broadcast what it called a "sensational" satellite photograph supporting Moscow's suggestions that that the plane was downed by a Ukrainian fighter jet. But commentators swiftly highlighted telltale signs that the photo was a crude fake and the United States dismissed the Russian report as "preposterous."

Obama and European leaders were scheduled to meet on November 16 to discuss additional possible sanctions against Russia.

Other leaders at the G20 summit publicly rejected Putin's claim there are no Russian forces are in eastern Ukraine.

Those remarks come after NATO's top commander in Europe announced the alliance has confirmed "multiple columns" of troops, tanks, artillery, and anti-aircraft systems have crossed the border into eastern Ukraine from Russian territory during the previous week.

Although the Ukraine crisis was not on the formal agenda of the G20 summit, it was a prominent topic in Putin's informal meetings with British Prime Minister David Cameron, French President Francois Hollande, Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Harper, when approached by Putin to shake hands, told the Russian president: "I guess I'll shake your hand. But I only have one thing to say to you. You need to get out of Ukraine."

Cameron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, speaking separately on the sidelines of the summit, warned of more sanctions if Moscow does not withdraw its troops and weaponry from eastern Ukraine.

Cameron said after Putin's early departure on November 16 that the G20 summit "sent a very clear message" to the Russian president.

Earlier, he said that if Ukraine is destabilized further, "the rest of the world — Europe, America, Britain — will have no choice but to take further action in terms of sanctions" against Russia.

Merkel told reporters that the European Union is considering further financial sanctions against Russian individuals because of the crisis in Ukraine.

She said an expanded list of Russians who could be targeted "is on the agenda."

European Council President Herman Van Rompuy says European Union foreign ministers will meet on November to consider further steps against Russia unless it withdraws all of its troops and weapons from eastern Ukraine.

Van Rompuy said Russia also must use its influence to get the rebels in eastern Ukraine to adhere to a September 5 cease-fire agreement that has been violated daily since it was brokered by Russian diplomats in Minsk.

13 a day killed since truce

(RFE/RL)—The United Nations says fighting in eastern Ukraine has killed an average of 13 people a day since a cease-fire between government forces and pro-Russian rebels was signed on September 5.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein announced the figure on November 20.

The UN rights agency said at least 4,317 people have been killed and 9,921 wounded since April in the conflict, which has brought ties between Russia and the West to post-Cold War lows.

It said 957 of the deaths were recorded between September 5 and November 18, a toll that reflects daily violations of the cease-fire deal signed in Minsk, including fighting over the airport outside the rebel-held city of Donetsk and the government-controlled Azov Sea coastal city of Mariupol.

The number of people registered as displaced within Ukraine soared from 275,489 in mid-September to 466,829 on November 19, the UN rights agency said.

The cease-fire deal, which was signed by representatives of Russia, Ukraine, and the rebels who have seized large parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, also set out steps aimed to end the conflict.

A senior Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe official said that the prospects for peace in eastern Ukraine were "bleak" but that there is no alternative to the Minsk deal.

"Whatever [their] shortcomings may be and wherever they may need to be supplemented, the [Minsk] documents are the door on the road to peace in eastern Ukraine, and they will continue to be so," Swiss diplomat Heidi Tagliavini told a meeting of the 57-member OSCE in Vienna.

Tagliavini is OSCE envoy to the Trilateral Contact Group, which includes senior representatives from Ukraine and Russia.

"I am unable to accept any remarks that the cease-fire arrangements of Minsk have fallen apart. Yes, it has been broken many times but it is the only agreement in place which has any restraining power on the use of force," she said.

Citing reports from NATO, OSCE observers, and journalists of a new military buildup in the conflict zone, Tagliavini said that "the outlook is still bleak" and that further escalation could have severe consequences for the region and beyond.

She said the situation had not improved since a G20 summit in Australia on November 15-16 during which Western leaders pressed Russian President Vladimir Putin over what NATO says is direct Russian military support for the separatists.

Next issue in 3 weeks

The next issue of Ukrainian News will appear in three weeks in order to be delivered closer to Gregorian Calendar Christmas and because the Editor will be attending the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program's Model Ukraine 2014 Conference in Lviv, Nov. 29 and 30.

U.S. official: Washington should consider lethal aid to Kyiv

Cont. from P. 1

ahead of a scheduled two-day visit to Kyiv by U.S. Vice President Joe Biden.

A day after arriving in the Ukrainian capital, Biden is due to meet Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk on November 21.

On November 19, Yatsenyuk rejected a call by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov for Kyiv to hold direct talks with the separatists.

Lavrov told the State Duma earlier on November 19 that Kyiv should establish "stable contacts" with the rebels in the regions of Luhansk and Donetsk.

But Yatsenyuk told Moscow to stop "playing games" aimed at legitimizing "terrorists."

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Moscow was ready for "practical cooperation" with Washington as long as the United States treats Russia as an equal partner and stays out of its internal affairs.

Putin spoke at a ceremony during which he received the credentials of foreign envoys including John Tefft, the new U.S. ambassador to Moscow.

In a statement issued after the ceremony, Tefft said he was committed to maintaining "open and frank lines of communication" with the Russian authorities.

Poroshenko says Ukraine 'ready for total war'

(RFE/RL)—Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has said his country is "prepared for total war," as fighting between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian separatists continues around the rebel-held city of Donetsk.

In an interview with the German daily "Bild", Poroshenko said, "I am not afraid of war with Russian troops."

"We are prepared for a scenario of total war... We don't want war, we want peace and we are fighting for European values. But Russia does not respect any agreement," he said in the interview published on November 17.

The conflict, which has killed more than 4,000 people since April, persists despite a September 5 cease-fire.

Poroshenko said Ukraine's armed forces were better prepared now, and Ukraine had the support of the "entire world."

Earlier on November 16 during a visit to Bratislava, Poroshenko said the conflict in the east would "end within two weeks" if the cease-fire signed in Minsk in September was implemented.

In the rebel stronghold of Donetsk, fresh shelling broke out in the afternoon on November 16 after a quiet morning, an AFP reporter said.

Ukraine's Interior Ministry said three volunteers fighting with Ukrainian forces had been killed in neighboring Luhansk, where rebels also control much territory.

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West appeasing Putin just as they appeased Hitler

Like some spoiled little child, Russian dictator Vladimir Putin left the Group of 20 summit in Brisbane, Australia, in a huff, muttering some lame excuse that he had to leave early so that he could get some sleep before going to work the next day.

Of course what really got Putin's goat was the constant barrage of criticism he was subjected to over Russia's aggression in Ukraine from world leaders and his ostracism at the summit.

Our own Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, was perhaps most forthright when Putin approached him for a handshake.

"I guess I'll shake your hand but, I have only one thing to say to you: you need to get out of Ukraine," Harper told Putin who brazenly replied "that is impossible because we're not there".

While we applaud Harper for his bold statement, we would be much happier if he did something more concrete – like extend Canada's sanctions to include Igor Sechin of Rosneft, Sergey Chemezov of Rostec and Viktor Yakunin of Russian Railways, all three of whom are on U.S. lists.

Even better – Canada could provide Ukraine with the lethal weapons it needs to fight the Russian proxy terrorists who are supplied so amply and with the latest in state-of-the-art weaponry by Russia. Or at least give financial aid that Ukraine could use to purchase such weapons. Former Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine, Derek Fraser, has come up with a unique suggestion as to finance such aid – punitive "Crimea" and Donbas" taxes on Russian goods sold in Canada.

Ukraine's outgoing Ambassador to Canada, Vadym Prystaiko expressed his frustration with the level of military support offered to Ukraine, compared with the coalition mission in Iraq, during a recent interview with CBC News.

"You're bombing, you're sending F-18s… Iraq's government is asking for help and you're sending everything. Then the Ukrainian government asks you the same… and you tell us what? No."

Prystaiko says Canada and other Western countries are turning away from helping Ukraine because they are afraid of Russia.

Yet there is evidence that the limited sanctions currently in place are taking their toll. They have curtailed the ability of Russian banks and other institutions to borrow from Western financial institutions. Russia's economic growth has nearly ground to a halt with the ruble losing 30 percent of its value against the dollar since the beginning of the year. Strengthening them would certainly be a step in the right direction.

But this hasn't deterred Putin who is more concerned about reviving Russian "imperial glory" than the economic well-being of his citizens. And unfortunately this mindset is shared by most Russians, who remain mired in the Dark Ages.

Despite Russia's plummeting economy, despite his ostracism among world leaders, Putin is not pulling back, but stepping up his aggression.

November 18 NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters that Russia is seriously building up its forces – not only in the terrorist-held enclave, but also on its side of the Ukrainian border.

"And we speak about troops, we speak about equipment, and we speak also about artillery and very modern air-defense systems so this is a serious military build-up," he said. And Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko has declared that his country is now prepared for "total war"

The highly-respected British newspaper, The Sunday Times, stated in a recent editorial that "strong words with limited actions add up to appeasement".

And that's exactly what Western democracies are doing. They are appeasing Putin today just as they appeased Adolph Hitler during the 1930's. And we all know what that led to.

In Flanders Fields" translated into Ukrainian

"Ed. Note: One of our readers, Natalie Spolsky-Tomcio of Toronto, has translated "In Flanders Fields" the world-famous poem written during the First World War by Canadian physician Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae. He was inspired to write it on May 3, 1915, after presiding over the funeral of friend and fellow soldier Alexis Helmer, who died in the Second Battle of Ypres. Spolsky-Tomcio sent us her translation just before this year's Remembrance Day. "The inspiration for my translation "In Flanders Fields" came from your friend and my (late) son Andrew who, on his very first business trip to Europe, took time off to visit Normandy and pay his respect to the Canadian Dead who gave their young lives for the idea of freedom and democracy. In a very significant way these are the values for which the 'Nebesna Sotnya' gave theirs," she told Ukrainian News. To our knowledge this is the first and only Ukrainian translation of the poem, which has been translated into many other languages. We are printing it below along with the original so that readers can see how true it is to the original with proper Ukrainian syntax.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Хвилює вітер червоні маки між хрестами,
Що тут стоять рядами за рядами,
А жайворонка спів у небесах
Чергується зі сальвами гармат тут на землі
У Фландрії полях.

Ми ті, що полягли. Хоч кілька днів назад
Ми ще були живі, раділи сонцю,
Любили й люблені були... Ми тепер полягли
У Фландрії полях.

Продовжуй змаг наш!
Знеможені передаєм
Наш смолоскип тобі. Неси його високо!
Якщо ти зрадиш наші сподівання,
Ми не заснем між маками
У Фландрії полях.

UCC calls on world leaders to assist Ukraine

(UCC National/UkrNews)—On the eve of the G20 conference in Brisbane, Australia the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) called on its leaders and members of NATO) to provide Ukraine with the assistance it requires to battle the persistent aggression by Russia against its independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Repeated calls by the international community for Russia to stop its aggression against Ukraine have been disregarded by the Putin regime. The Minsk protocols have been repeatedly and routinely violated by the Russian Federation., stated the UCC in a Nov 14 media release.

Russian military hardware and personnel continue to pour over the border into the parts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts currently under the de-facto control of the Kremlin-backed terrorist organizations, the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk "Peoples' Republics."

"The member states of the NATO alliance have been unequivocal in their support for Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity and their condemnation of Russia's aggression. Canada, the United States and the EU have imposed sanctions on Russia in response to its aggression, and provided economic, humanitarian and non-lethal military aid to Ukraine," stated Paul Grod, National President of the UCC. "These steps are welcome, but events have shown that they are insufficient to cause Mr. Putin to stop his belligerence against Ukraine."

Russia's aggression against Ukraine has cost thousands of lives. The people of Ukraine continue to show remarkable bravery in their struggle to protect their country; they need the aid and assistance of the world's democracies to battle against Russia's tyranny.

The UCC calls on G20 countries and NATO allies to:

1. Impose decisive sectoral economic sanctions against the Russian financial, defense and energy sectors, including banning Russian institutions from the SWIFT bank transfer payments system;

2. Increase the political isolation of the Putin regime, including working with the G-20 to suspend Russia's membership, as the G-7 did; the suspension of the NATO-Russia Founding Act; and banning the sale of all services and military equipment to Russia, including the Mistral warships;

3. Provide defensive military assistance to Ukraine's army, including especially anti-tank and counter-artillery weaponry.

The UCC underlines its complete solidarity with the people of Ukraine in their brave struggle to defend their country against Russia's assault on Ukraine's sovereignty and freedom.

CD4DU spells out Ukraine action plan for Canada

(CD4DU)—Ukraine needs immediate Western help to deal with some "pressing needs" against Russia's aggression says a letter from the Canadian Group for Democracy in Ukraine to key members of the Canada Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group.

The CG4DU calls on Canada to assist in three areas: assisting Ukraine in dealing with Russia's war of aggression; expanding Western sanctions against Russia; and offering Ukraine Western know-how in tackling reforms and corruption. The letter spells out a twelve-point action plan.

"The West has been giving Russia the benefit of the doubt since the breakup of the USSR. We assumed Putin was like us. The action plan is a more realistic way of dealing with Putin and his backward, criminal dictatorship; fine for obedient insiders accumulating wealth, misery for the rest," says Myroslava Oleksiuk, one of the signees.

The action plan aims to strengthen the West's response to Putin's arrogant aggression. For this, Ukraine needs military assistance that individual NATO members can and need to provide now to counter Russia's military presence in Ukraine.

"President Putin brags publicly 'the bear does not ask, the bear takes', and we let him," says Oksana Bashuk Hepburn. "Putin is not just Ukraine's enemy. He is not some rag-tag terrorist group like ISIS. He is much more dangerous. He is the head of a state with vast financial resources and a huge military and nuclear capability at his disposal. He has no internal checks on him and, as we see with Ukraine, no international oversight. He does as he wishes and we let him."

One way to hold him in check is to assist Ukraine militarily as requested by its President Petro Poroshenko. The Group urges immediate support while there is still time. Ukraine "will welcome all the help it can get from Canada," concludes the letter.

"We have asked the members of the Parliamentary Friendship Group to bring our action plan to the attention of all concerned ministers and officials in Canada and to seek support from other like-minded countries. We need a specific task force to focus on this urgency," adds Bashuk Hepburn.

The Canadian Group for Democracy in Ukraine is dedicated to the furthering of democracy in Ukraine.

Putin's brittle Iron Curtain

By Chrystia Freeland,
Politico Magazine, November 13, 2014

This is a week of geopolitical paradox: We are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the peaceful fall of the Berlin Wall even as we watch Vladimir Putin's violent efforts to erect a new Iron Curtain further east. The news that dozens of Russian tanks and truckloads of troops have crossed the border into Ukraine resurrects dark and distant memories, the historical nightmare of Hungary in 1956, and Czechoslovakia in 1968. To add to the tension, Sergey Markov, a former Duma member and ally of Putin's, reportedly suggested in an interview that Estonia and Latvia might also come under Moscow's control.

But beware, Mr. Putin: The more enduring precedent is still 1989, when the Iron Curtain crumpled for good. Most of the former Warsaw Pact states—most notably Poland, the Baltic Republics and the former East Germany—are now thriving, European market democracies. And here are four more positive lessons of 1989 and the quarter century that followed:

— The European Union can work: These days, the European Union mostly seems to be a case study in how not to run 21st century capitalist democracies. It is economically stagnant, struggling for political legitimacy and hamstrung by collective action problems and an unwieldy bureaucracy. But that same fusty, process-driven, boring European Union is responsible for the most successful democratic transition since the Marshall Plan. This historic transformation would have been impossible without Europe's example and its generosity: the prospect of EU membership is what persuaded Eastern European societies and their political elites to stick with democratic and market reforms in the lean years.

Europe's actions over the next few months and years will be equally consequential *today. The only hope of containing an increasingly bellicose Kremlin is for Ukraine* to emerge as a strong, prosperous, well-defended country, integrated ever more closely into the EU. That will be expensive and messy and take a long time. But the alternative — an uncontained Russia raging murderously on Europe's eastern flank — would be even messier and more costly.

— History isn't destiny: The peaceful coexistence of Germany and France should have taught us that even centuries of enmity don't make war inevitable. But, in the age of ISIL and Vladimir Putin it is easy to forget that history, including bitter, bellicose cultural history, need not always repeat itself. The best example is the relationship between Poland and Ukraine. We hear a lot today about Russia's deep ethnic, historic and linguistic ties to eastern Ukraine and why those existential connections make it impossible for Moscow to relinquish its suzerainty. We hear less about the equally passionate claims Warsaw could be advancing towards western Ukraine—but is not. Like Russia in the east, Poland has deep ethnic, historic and linguistic ties to western Ukraine. But, while still in opposition and in exile, the Polish intelligentsia made the historic decision that Poland could become a democracy only if it gave up on its irredentist ambitions in Ukraine. Instead of invading Ukraine, Poland has become Ukraine's firmest ally and advocate. It isn't a fairytale to believe that one day a democratic Russia might become likewise reconciled with its neighbor. Indeed, a precondition for Russia's democratic transition — however many decades it takes for that to again seem like a possibility — will be accepting Ukraine's independence.

— Privatization isn't enough: When the Berlin Wall fell, the big question was how to go from communist authoritarianism to market democracy. Privatization was an obvious part of the transition, but there was intense debate about how fast privatization needed to be, how equitable it needed to be, and how efficient it needed to be. Plenty of vested interests weighed in, of course, but there was also a big idea at stake. Everyone agreed that privatization was a necessary condition of the transition—the fight was about whether it was also sufficient. Thanks to Russia and its travails, we now know that the answer is no.

Faced with the prospect of a Communist victory in 1996 presidential elections, Russian reformers devised the notorious loan-for-shares privatization scheme. This turned out to be the biggest economic give-away of the century, but at least some of its architects had a benign goal: Once property was in private hands, they believed, market reforms would be irreversible. The new owners would defend their property and champion the liberal democratic institutions required to guarantee it over the long term. It hasn't worked out that way. It is no accident that one of Vladimir Putin's first steps after arriving in the Kremlin was to imprison Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the Russian businessman who was most aggressively fighting for liberal democracy, and to confiscate his assets. Without the rule of law, broad public support and organized civil society, private property proved to be as easy to confiscate as it had been to award.

— Organized civil society is essential: Political choices in central Europe and the former Soviet Union over the past quarter century have been as diverse as the region, but there is one constant. The transition worked in countries that arrived in 1989, or 1991, with a strong, well-organized civil society, committed to change, and they failed where it was absent. Poland owes much of its success to the strength of its Catholic Church and to Solidarity, its independent and battle-tested trade union. By contrast, the collapse of the Communism left Russia with a civil society that was atomized and mistrustful. At the beginning of this century, some observers thought that didn't matter. Putin's Kremlin seemed to be pursuing what Russians call the Pinochet model — authoritarian political rule combined with market reforms. For a while, it seemed to work, at least judging solely by economic indicators. But Russia has now degenerated into an authoritarian and increasingly autarchic kleptocracy — and one bent on war.

That's an important outcome for everyone who is sympathetic to the essential truth (if delayed historical manifestation) in Francis Fukuyama's "End of History" thesis—that liberal market democracy is the best political and economic system we have devised so far. But there is no instant recipe for cooking it up and it is nearly impossible to impose from above or abroad. Outside actors, like the EU, can and have played an essential role. But, ultimately, dictators are defeated by their own people, and democracy starts at home.

The year 1989 was such a euphoric moment, and today is such a grim one, that it is tempting to look back on the triumphal democratic dreams of a quarter century ago with cynical superiority. Nowadays, democratic revolutions seem more likely to fail or to fizzle out: witness the Arab Spring and Ukraine's own Orange Revolution. But before 1989 there was 1956, 1968 and 1981 (the Polish declaration of martial law to suppress the "Solidarity" revolution). That's the biggest lesson of the fall of the Berlin Wall—It takes years of defeat to finally succeed. And that success has endured.

If you doubt that, bear in mind that Putin does not. His aggression grows out of his appreciation of the fragility of his regime, not his pride in its strength. To us, Ukraine's democrats, with their crowd-sourced armaments and wounded economy, may seem puny and weak. But Putin sees in them a threatening inspiration for his own far more diminished democratic opponents at home. He is trying to build a new iron curtain because he knows how brittle the Kremlin's walls, like Berlin's, are.

Chrystia Freeland is the federal member of parliament for Toronto Centre and the author of Plutocrats: the Rise of the New Global Super-Rich and the Fall of Everyone Else.

Don't mention the Cold War

By Brian Whitmore

(RFE/RL)—Mikhail Gorbachev says we're "on the brink" of one. Henry Kissinger thinks he knows how to avoid one. And Vladimir Putin seems to be trying to provoke one.

Cold War talk is in the air and Cold War fears are on the rise. Over the past eight months, according to a report by the London-based European Leadership Network, close military encounters between Russia and the West have spiked to their highest levels in decades.

These include "violations of national air space, emergency scrambles, narrowly avoided mid-air collisions, close encounters at sea, simulated attack runs...harassment of reconnaissance planes, close overflights over warships, and Russian 'mock bombing raid' missions."

But despite the rhetoric and the posturing, the escalating conflict between Russia and the West is not a new Cold War.

For this to be a Cold War, Russia would need to be a superpower. It is not. Moscow would need to lead a bloc of nations that enjoys rough parity with the West. It doesn't. And it would need to be offering an alternative model to Western liberal democratic capitalism. It isn't.

"Russia is a mid-sized power that lacks the capacity to shape the international environment single-handedly. It is not in the top league with the U.S. and China," political analyst Vladimir Frolov wrote recently in "The Moscow Times."

"Moscow suffers from superpower phantom pains, but its ambitions are not backed by economic power or technological prowess. Its sole claim to superpowerdom is its nuclear weapons, brandished too cavalierly."

Despite Moscow's best efforts, there is no Russian-led bloc of nations opposing the West. The much-touted BRICS is essentially a group of mid-level powers clinging to a rising China.

And for all its flaws — and they were legion — Soviet Communism presented an alternative political and economic system to Western democratic capitalism and an alternative development model that enjoyed some traction, particularly in the Third World. What is Russia offering today? Homophobia and gay bashing masquerading as "traditional values"? A kleptocracy fueled by petrodollars? Fantasies of a revived Russian empire?

"Neither Russia nor even China (whose leaders long ago abandoned the communist vanguard for the pursuit of profit) offer universalist ideologies capable of competing with free market capitalism," Stewart M. Patrick, director of the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations International Institutions and Global Governance Program, wrote recently on his blog.

At best, Moscow is offering a scattershot critique aimed at appealing to all the foes of globalization, be they on the left or the right.

That the Kremlin is not presenting an alternative to the West is even evident in the nature of its propaganda, as Peter Pomerantsev noted in a recent piece in The Atlantic.

Putin's Russia, according to Pomerantsev, "reinvents reality, creating mass hallucinations that then translate into political action."

Unlike the propaganda promoting Soviet Communism, which was based on a universalist and more-or-less internally consistent and logically coherent ideology, facts and proof are irrelevant.

"For the Soviets, the idea of truth was important — even when they were lying. Soviet propaganda went to great lengths to 'prove' that the Kremlin's theories or bits of disinformation were fact," he wrote.

"The point of this new propaganda is not to persuade anyone, but to keep the viewer hooked and distracted — to disrupt Western narratives rather than provide a counter narrative."

No, this isn't a Cold War. But guess what? It's even scarier and more dangerous.

During the Cold War the Kremlin had a stake in — and was interested in maintaining — the existing international system. Despite its ideology and rhetoric, the Soviet Union after Stalin wasn't revolutionary at all. It was a classic status-quo power.

But in the past 25 years, a new international order has taken shape to replace the bipolar superpower rivalry — and Moscow doesn't like it. It wants the old 20th century bipolar world back, or a 19th century concert of great powers, each free to act in their own spheres of influence.

And if it doesn't get it, it is going to do its best to disrupt the existing order.

"Russia's intervention in Ukraine, however disingenuously denied and creatively concealed, constitutes a frontal assault on the liberal international order that the United States and its Western allies have done so much to promote and build," Patrick of the Council on Foreign Relations wrote.

Russia's behavior, he added, represents "the resurgence of a more primitive form of power politics" in which established norms like "the principle of sovereignty, the sanctity of borders, the illegitimacy of spheres of influence, and the supremacy of citizenship over ethnicity" are under assault.

The Cold War was a stable and predictable arrangement. The world we are now entering is anything but.

Russia is playing the role of a spoiler. And spoilers bent on challenging the international order — especially nuclear armed ones — are dangerous.

And we've seen this movie before. Napoleonic France tried to disrupt the British-dominated European order in the early 19th century, as did Germany — twice — in the early 20th century.

"We are not in a 'revolutionary' period of world politics, in Kissinger's terms, in which a radical power — think revolutionary France, Leninist Russia, or Maoist China — pursues (at least for a while) dreams of world revolution," Patrick wrote.

Not yet. But we could be soon.

German, Russian foreign ministers discuss Ukraine crisis

(RFE/RL)—German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier flew from Kyiv to Moscow and met with his Russian counterpart during the evening of November 18.

Steinmeier and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov discussed the deteriorating situation in Ukraine.

Both reportedly agreed on the need to return to the so-called Minsk protocol, a dialogue that involves the warring factions in Ukraine, as well as Russia and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Steinmeier said he did not "see reasons for optimism" that the Minsk protocol could achieve a breakthrough on the ground in eastern Ukraine.

But he added that "it would be a huge loss" to abandon the protocol at this time.

Steinmeier and Lavrov also called on Kyiv and the separatist leadership in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk and Luhansk regions to start direct talks aimed at pulling their military forces back.

Lavrov said the Minsk protocol was a "unique format...the only one in which the conflicting parties are represented with Russia's and the OSCE's participation."

Earlier on November 18, Steimeier met with Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk in Kyiv.

Yatsenyuk agreed that the basic points of the Minsk agreement "have not been fulfilled."

"Russia must fulfil what it signed and what it promised to the whole world," he said.

Verkhovyna Ensemble puts on masterful performance

(UkrNews)—The Verkhovyna Ukrainian Song and Dance Ensemble put on a masterful performance of dance and choral singing with its presentation of "The Dream" at the Dow Centennial Centre's Shell Theatre in Fort Saskatchewan, November 1.

The performance consisted of two parts. The first half featured the entire ensemble in a story line "The Dream" about a young man who leaves his rural home to try it out in the big city.

But when he arrives he finds that life in the big city is a lonely experience amid the bustle of activity and the lack of friends. He dreams of what might happen if he remains in a faceless world and of his own future – on the farm.

Afraid of losing what he has, he returns to the farm and his sweetheart all the wiser for having experienced life on the outside and now fully appreciating his roots.

The performance had several striking highlights including the dream sequence itself, the automaton office scene, as well as the jazz club scene featuring an energetic jitterbug performance to the tune of Benny Goodman's "Sing, Sing, Sing".

During the second half the Dunai dancers, under the direction of Shawn Ostafie and Camile Ostapowich-Allen interspersed number with the Verkhovyna choir, conducted by Orest Soltykevych.

Both were very warmly received by the audience. Dunai performed a number of regional dances closing with a thrilling Hopak.

During Verkhonyna's final number "The Gypsies Stood on the Hill" Soltykevych invited the audience to participate by singing the refrain, to which they responded with great enthusiasm.

The Verkhovyna Song & Dance Ensemble's goal is to promote the Ukrainian culture and increase awareness of the richness of Ukrainian dance and choral performing.

Verkhovyna strives to enable its members to establish a greater appreciation for Ukrainian dance, culture, music, traditions and folklore.

A broad spectrum of the Ukrainian community is represented within the Ensemble, from Ukrainians new to Canada, to fourth generation Ukrainian Canadians.

PHOTOS – MARCO LEVYTSKY

On Top: Dunai Dancers perform their Pryvit. Directly Above: Verkhovyna Choir Conductor Orest Soltykevych leads the audience in a sing-along.

The Ukrainian Male Chorus of Edmonton presents
A Festive Mosaic
Saturday, December 6, 2014
7:00 pm
McDougall United Church
10025 101 Street
featuring the sounds of:
♪ Edmonton Youth Choir
♪ Ritchie Trombone Choir
♪ The Ukrainian Male Chorus of Edmonton
Tickets: $15 Adults
$10 Students
Free for children under 10
Available from choir members and at the door
780.499.0422 • UMCtickets@gmail.com

UMCE presents a Festive Mosaic

(Bottom Line Productions)—Celebrate the Spirit of Christmas when the Ukrainian Male Chorus of Edmonton (UMCE) presents A Festive Mosaic at McDougall United Church (10025 101 Street) on Saturday, December 6, 2014. This annual Christmas concert will feature the sounds of The Edmonton Youth Choir, the Ritchie Trombone Choir, and UMCE. Showtime is 7pm.

For 30 years, UMCE has pursued the objective of developing, promoting and fostering a greater appreciation of the traditions of Ukrainian choral singing. Beginning with its first major public performance at Expo '86 (Vancouver), it has performed across North America and around the world in frequent choral festivals, concerts, special guest appearances and commemorative performances.

The Chorus has appeared with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra several times during its regular season, highlighted by performances of Carmina Burana (Orff) and Gloria (Poulenc). Beyond North America, the Chorus has toured Poland (2002), Australia (2008), Ukraine (2002 and 2011), and throughout Europe (2014). Its discography includes Old Sheepskin Coat (1992), Ukrainian Male Chorus Live (2002), Malanka Suite (2003) and Kateryna (2007).

Tickets for A Festive Mosaic are $15 for adults, $10 for students, and free for children under 10. They are available by phone at 780.499.0422, e-mail at UMCtickets@gmail.com, and at the door.

A display of folk art and dress from the Pokuttia region of Halychyna.

UMC Alberta exhibit features "Unity in Diversity"

(UkrNews)—The Ukrainian Museum of Canada, Alberta Branch held a unique and painstakingly researched exhibition of folk dress and arts from the 13 cultural regions of Ukraine at St. John's Cultural Centre, November 2 -8.

The exhibition, entitled "Unity in Diversity: the Ukrainian Mosaic", had two objectives, explained Elaine Verchomin Harasymiw, President of the UMC, Alberta Branch

"The obvious one is the depiction of the extraordinary regional diversity that exists in Ukrainian national culture. On display are artifacts from the Museum's collection organized into 13 ethnographic regions. Here one sees the distinctiveness of each region and, within regions, characteristic features of specific localities.

"Another dimension is that Ukraine is at a critical stage as a state. With military incursions into the country threatening its geopolitical integrity, it behooves us to present a country that is united through its culture — diverse yet united — a mosaic that forms a singular image. Thus the exhibit is relevant given the context of events in Ukraine today," she said in her address at the official opening, November 2.

Harasymiw said it took months of research to identify what were the distinctive characteristics of folk dress and folk arts of each of these regions, then to find out whether the museum has those in their collections.

The exhibition consisted of folk costume, arts and crafts — dress, kylyms, weaving, ceramics, wood carving, painting, toys, and pysanky. In addition to the 13 ethnocultural regions, the exhibit concluded with a display of the historic event on Maidan in February 2014 — its place and relevance in Ukraine today. The viewing experience was enriched by an abridged version of Kontakt's production, "Ukraine: Its Land and People", and folk music of all 13 regions.

The Museum invited all the schools offering the Ukrainian Bilingual Program and Ukrainian second language programs to view the exhibition and subsidized the transportation costs for schools interested in attending. Three schools availed themselves of this opportunity: St. Martin's Elementary School (Edmonton), A. L. Horton Elementary School (Vegreville), and St. Theresa Catholic School (Sherwood Park). As well, J. A. McDougall School sent three classes of students to view the exhibit. Including youth associated with St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Parish, approximately 325 students attended the event. In total, between 550 and 600 individuals viewed the exhibit.

"Judging by comments made by those viewing the exhibit, the exposition was very successful," added Harasymiw.

"It deepened one's knowledge of Ukrainian culture and its history — in particular, the effects of that history on the cultural life of its people. It reinforced viewers' connection to Ukraine and that history. It essentially nurtured one's identity as a Canadian of Ukrainian descent. Culture doesn't simply exist by itself, but is the result of many geographic and socio-political factors. And it is important to understand that about one's roots," she said.

In delivering the keynote address at the opening, Dr. Volodymyr Kravchenko, director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta, noted that because of what he termed its "fatal geography" Ukraine has been an historic battlefield for its neighbours,

Ukrainians managed to elaborate a specific culture of survival which resulted in the multiplicity of their names and collective identities.

"That is why ethnography became, may be, the main custodian of Ukrainian continuity – names were changing, boundaries were changing, territory was fragmenting, but pysanka remains to be the same symbol of Ukrainian stamina.

He noted that there are several concepts regarding Ukraine's regional divisions. One is the East-West paradigm which involves the division of Ukrainian society into "anti-Russian, nationalistic, Greek Catholic West" and "pro-Russian, Communist and Orthodox East".

But such a black-and-white picture is far from Ukrainian reality, he added

Another one is the four-region variant — made up of west, central, south and east regions, as well as an eight region framework.

As a historian he prefers the framework of 11 historical regions, such as: Transcarpathia, Galicia or Western Ukraine, Bukovyna, Podilla, Volyn', Right-bank, Slobozhanshchyna, Little-Russia, Donbas or Eastern Ukraine, South Ukraine and Crimea.

"Each of them has its own historical record and its own cultural identity…Each of them has its own

Cont. on P. 11

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10:00am - 4:30pm
St. John's Cultural Centre
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Admission by donation
For more information on the workshops or to book a table in the market please contact the ACUA office at 780 488 8558 or info@acuarts.ca

Євреї об'єднують зусилля для захисту України від агресора

Жанна Безп'ятчук, *Радіо Свобода*

У Києві відбувається перший спільний з'їзд єврейських організацій України, на якому делегати п'яти єврейських об'єднань планують створити раду керівників єврейських організацій України. За словами голови Асоціації єврейських громад та організацій України (Ваад) Йосипа Зісельса, сьогодні настав час, коли єврейська спільнота має допомагати всебічно Україні, в період агресії проти неї іншої держави. Саме це питання, а також проблему допомоги вимушеним переселенцям і мешканцям Донбасу, які належать до єврейської громади, обговорюватимуть учасники з'їзду. Вони також відзначають, що в Україні зовсім немає того рівня антисемітизму, про який розповідає російська пропаганда. Якщо в Україні за рік зареєстрували 13 випадків антисемітизму, то в Німеччині 1300.

Із гімнів двох країн – України та Ізраїлю – розпочався перший спільний з'їзд єврейських організацій України. У складні часи для цієї країни її єврейські організації вирішили об'єднати зусилля для вирішення власних проблем та допомоги Українській державі. У з'їзді беруть участь п'ять єврейських об'єднань: Товариство єврейської культури України, Єврейська рада України, Єврейський форум України, Асоціація єврейських громад і організацій (Ваад) та Українська спілка єврейських студентів.

Голова Асоціації єврейських громад та організацій України (Ваад) Йосип Зісельс наголосив, виступаючи перед делегатами, що якщо раніше єврейська громада просила про допомогу в держави, то тепер на тривалий час усе має бути навпаки.

«Що сьогодні ми можемо дати Україні, чим сьогодні ми можемо допомогти нашій країні? Ми зажди були зосереджені на підтримці різних країн. Євреї України допомагали Ізраїлю. Інші меншини лобіювали інтереси інших країн, які вони представляють. Але сьогодні такий день, настав такий час, що ми всі маємо допомогти Україні»

За даними, які навів Йосип Зісельс, в окупованому Росією Криму проживає близько 10 тисяч євреїв, ще 20 тисяч проживають на Донбасі, з них п'ять тисяч вимушені були звідти виїхати. Загалом єврейська діаспора налічує близько 300 тисяч громадян України.

Єврейська громада сьогодні організовує допомогу своїм членам, вимушеним переселенцям.

Крім того, єврейський лідер навів дані, які свідчать про відсутність в Україні масштабного антисемітизму. Так, у 2013 році експерти єврейських організацій нарахували в Україні 13 випадків прояву антисемітизму. До порівняння: в Німеччині зареєстрували 1400 таких випадків, у Франції – 800.

«На тлі Європи ми виглядаємо дуже благополучно. У 2013 році нашими експертами були зафіксовані 13 антисемітських інцидентів: чотири напади й дев'ять випадків вандалізму. А в Німеччині – 1300. Звісно, можна сказати, що німці настільки ідентичні, що вони не пропускають жодного інциденту, а ми пропускаємо. Однак ці 13 інцидентів відомі всьому світу, оскільки ми посилаємо свої матеріали в різні організації: ні ОБСЄ, ні відділ Державного департаменту США, який займається проблемою антисемітизмом, ні Антидефамаційна ліга не змогли за рік додати щось до цього переліку», – зауважив єврейський лідер.

Крім того, Йосип Зісельс відзначив, що не було антисемітизму як такого на Майдані, де формувалася політична нація. З тисяч виступів був помічений лише один антисемітський і ще один виступ неоднозначного змісту.

Російська пропаганда роздмухує тему антисемітизму, щоб дискредитувати Україну в світі – Френкель

Голова Асоціації єврейських ЗМІ та головний редактор видання «Єврейський оглядач» Михайло Френкель відзначає, що сьогодні російська пропаганда вдається до провокацій та використовує антисемітизм задля дискредитації України в світі. І хоч існує проблема побутового антисемітизму в Україні, у єврейській громаді говорять про російську пропаганду: «Ми не бачимо того, що чуємо».

«Останнім часом ми зіштовхнулися з тим, що тема антисемітизму роздмухується російською пропагандою в рамках загальної антиукраїнської пропаганди, тому що ця тема болісно сприймається на Заході, особливо в США. Дискредитуючи за допомогою цього Майдан та Україну. Російська пропаганда вважає, що таким чином вона знеславить Україну в очах світової спільноти. До прикладу: минулої зими з'являється повідомлення, нібито мер Ландау створює якісь єврейські охоронні загони, які вже протидіють погромам в Україні. Цей фейк без жодної перевірки, на жаль, потрапляє в західні ЗМІ, тиражується там. Через три дні вдається встановити, що це ніякий не мер Ландау, а якийсь проросійський козак із України, якийсь Ніколай із потрійним прізвищем. Він запустив цей фейк. На жаль, ніхто не перевірив його, він пішов у медіа», – розповів Михайло Френкель.

За словами урядового уповноваженого з питань етнонаціональної політики в Україні Геннадія Друзенка, сьогоднішні важкі часи, як ніколи зблизили українські та єврейські народи, адже Ізраїль пережив і далі переживає схожі виклики для своє безпеки та існування.

Захисникам Донецького аеропорту відступати нікуди

Дар'я Бунякіна, *Радіо Свобода*

22-річний черкащанин, студент-перекладач Сергій Галян у складі 95-ої аеромобільної бригади впродовж дев'яти днів захищав Донецький аеропорт. Його інтерв'ю у статті Сергія Лойка про донецьких «кіборгів» потрапило на першу шпальту газети The Los Angeles Times. Про те, що син боронить зруйнований сепаратистами аеропорт, мама Сергія дізналася з інтернету. А от батько хлопця, полковник російської армії, від початку знав, де його син.

– Те, що відбувається у Донецькому аеропорту словами не передати. Це зовсім інший світ. Я туди приїхав необстріляний. І там я побачив, як по тобі стріляють з усіх видів зброї: із гранатометів, із АГСів, із кулеметів, із мінометів, і «Гради» були. Але найстрашніше, мабуть, це танки. Також дуже страшно було приїхати в сам аеропорт на техніці. Тому що дорогу повністю прострілюють, там хлопці у повному оточенні. Дві будівлі були під нашим контролем. Коли я приїхав, у новому терміналі перший поверх був наш, другий наш, а на третьому були сепаратисти. Я і так був у шоці від загальної обстановки. А коли дізнався, що над нами і під нами у підвалах – ворог, і навколо будівлі у них позиції, усе прострілюється снайперами…

Морально дуже важко зрозуміти, що відступати нікуди. Якщо, не дай Боже, буде найжорсткіший сценарій, відступити ти не можеш. Ти вийдеш за межі будівлі і тебе одразу «зніме» снайпер. Там усі розуміють, що треба стояти до останнього патрону. Бо ніхто з тобою не буде церемонитися. І через цю безвихідь розумієш, що треба стояти по максимуму. Звикаєш до обстрілів, до куль над головою. Вони стають буденними.

– Але як до цього можна звикнути?

– Ми виконуємо завдання, ми виконуємо накази. Щоб не з'їхати з глузду, нам хлопець один, якого ми замінювали, порадив не просто сидіти, а жити цим. Сходити зробити чаю, піти щось дізнатися, десь патрони піднести. Цим треба жити. Інакше, якщо ти просто сидітимеш і накручуватимеш думки, коли тебе повністю охопить страх, це добром не закінчиться. Тому спробували влитися в цю атмосферу, тримали позиції, виконували завдання, підтримували один одного.

– Чи є у тій будівлі, що залишилася від Донецького аеропорту, приміщення чи закутки, де можна заховатися від обстрілів?

– По тобі б'ють танкові снаряди, а ти просто притискаєшся до підлоги, бо немає накриття, бо навколо гіпсокартон. Ми були у митному відділі аеропорту, де були конвеєри, які пересували сумки. Ці конвеєри – металева конструкція розміром до поясу. От під нею можна заховатися. Це єдине, що тебе рятує – ці три міліметри металу вздовж конвеєра. Тому ми лежимо, спимо, несемо службу і відпочиваємо – усе на цьому проміжку. Скільки було такого, що різко вибух, різко уламки. Тому потрібно постійно бути в тонусі і розуміти, що від тебе залежить життя твоїх товаришів. Те ж саме, як моє життя залежить від них.

Сергій Галян впродовж дев'яти днів захищав Донецький аеропорт (фото Сергія Лойка)

– Захисників Донецького аеропорту називають «кіборгами». Як думаєте, чому?

– Коли я ще і не думав, що потраплю в аеропорт, ми переживали за хлопців, дивилися телевізор, і я тоді вперше почув про «кіборгів». Коли вже опинився там, я зрозумів, що коли за дев'ять днів ти настільки живеш на адреналіні… Я харчувався, мабуть, раз на добу. І не тому, що там часто обстріли. Просто не хочеться: раз поїв, попив чаю із великою кількістю цукру. Там усе на адреналіні, я схуднув на шість кілограмів за ці дев'ять днів. Сну, як такого, теж немає. І ти розумієш, що твій організм за ці дев'ять днів на такому зношенні. Але ти при цьому нормально мислиш, ти воюєш, ти перетягуєш якісь ящики зі снарядами. От тоді я зрозумів, чому «кіборги».

– На Ваших очах помирали люди?

– Так, і це буквально за дев'ять днів. До цього, може, Господь, рятував від таких ситуацій. Скільки там і в конвоях були, але все спокійно. Там ти розумієш, що життя, як кажуть, коштує півкопійки. Ось це насправді страшно. Звичайній людині це не зрозуміти, я це не розумів. Начебто ти ростеш, закінчуєш школу, університет, робота. Маєш народити дітей, збудувати дім, заробити на пенсію. А насправді життя людини – це ніщо. Особливо, коли люди з автоматами і за ними немає закону. Вони, що хочуть, те й роблять. Хтось не сподобався, то простіше проблему прибрати – і немає людини. Ось це дуже страшно.

– А хто за Вас переживав у Черкасах?

– Переживали з університету викладачі, дуже сильно переживали друзі. Мама не знала. Вона думала, що я у Житомирі весь час. Я казав, що нас мобілізували, що ми сидимо в частині. Коли їхав в аеропорт, сказав, що їду на полігон, відповісти не зможу, буду без телефону, але все нормально. А потім буквально за три дні до відпустки вона впізнала *мене по фотографії. Кореспондент* Сергій Лойко приїздив фотографував. І вона побачила його світлину, де я в аеропорту. Мама, звісно, була шокована. Але, слава Богу, нам через три дні раптово дали відпустку. І я приїхав із великим букетом: «Мамо, я живий, я цілий, я на місці».

– Ваше інтерв'ю Сергію Лойку, опубліковане у статті про захисників Донецького аеропорту, опинилося на першій шпальті газети The Los Angeles Times.

– Так, ми з ним спілкувалися. Я теж цікавився журналістикою, тож якраз розпитав у нього про цю нелегку справу. А він у мене взяв інтерв'ю: його зацікавило, що мій батько живе в Росії і служить у Збройних Силах Російської Федерації.

– А Ваш батько нині воює проти України?

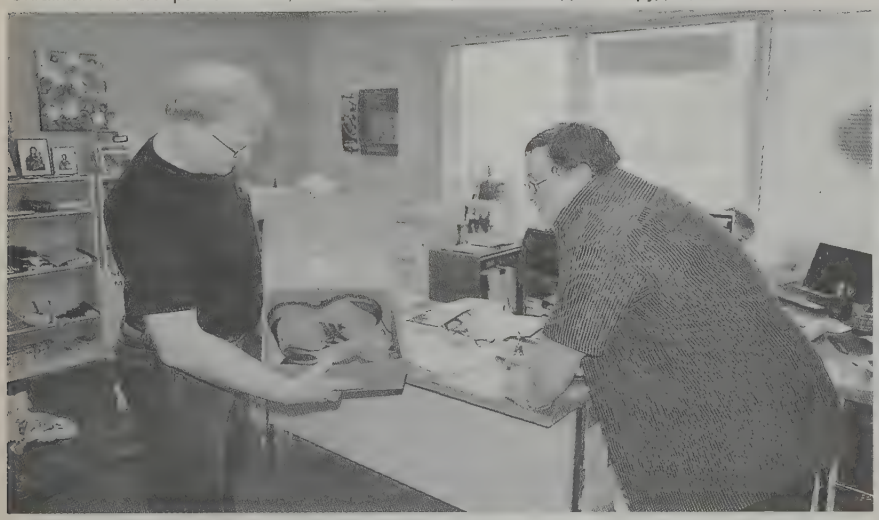
– Ні, він зараз не воює, він на базі. Теж, звісно, це настільки дико, безглуздо. У багатьох же стільки родичів на тій стороні. Прикро, що люди настільки піддаються пропаганді. Можна ж брати новини з інших джерел, і можна оцінювати інформацію адекватно.

– Ви з ним спілкуєтеся?

– Так, у нас спілкування на тому рівні, що він переживає за мене, він знає, де я і запитує, як я – чи живий, здоровий, не хворію? Про конфлікт ми не говоримо.

– По суті, Ви з батьком воюєте по різні сторони?

– По суті, так. Неофіційно. Але я думаю, що якби батько навіть і отримав наказ, він би не пішов у це «відрядження», як вони його називають.



UCC Edmonton Branch action volunteers Mark Kopynets and Ilia Simcisin packing donated items

UCC Edmonton spearheads humanitarian aid to Ukraine

Сергій Костюк, *Президент КУК – Едмонтон*

The Standing Committee on Humanitarian Assistance to Ukraine under the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Edmonton Branch has been coordinating collection and shipping oversees warm clothing for Eastern Ukraine since September 2014.

In two months Edmontonians donated close to 500 kg of brand new winter jackets, hats, gloves, boots, scarves, balaclavas, sweatpants, thermal underwear, socks, first aid emergency bandages, hand warmers, water purifying filets, chocolate and instant coffee and other items.

This humanitarian action is ongoing, and if you would like to buy a warm clothing to support Ukraine in its fight for freedom and independence against Putin's Russia, you can drop off you donations at no charge at either Meest Edmonton or Ukrainian Orbit Travel Store

More information as well as photo and video reports available on UCC Edmonton's Facebook page at www.facebook/uccedmonton. Слава Україні!

UMC Alberta exhibit features "Unity in Diversity"

Cont. from P. 9

image with the respective set of symbols.

"Halychyna is the most concentrated embodiment of the 'western' Ukrainian mythologies, while Donbas is considered to be a symbol of the Sovietness, Russification, and cultural backwardness.

"It is commonly accepted by scholars that many such definitions reflect mythological rather than real circumstances and entities," Dr. Kravchenko said.

However, historical regions are quite similar to a nation-state "that is why a regional identity can be easily transformed into a national one, and vice-versa. Regional identities frequently became building blocks of national history."

Dr. Kravchenko said the theme of the exhibit "Unity in diversity" motto is much closer to Ukrainian reality than semi-official "Glory to Ukraine!" and that "Multicultural Ukraine" looks much more realistic than the "two Ukraines" paradigm.

"We need to learn our tragic historical lessons to be able to understand that diversity is a strength, not a weakness of Ukraine. In other case — no wall will protect Ukraine from aggression.

We need to know how to sew together all Ukrainian regions. We need to understand, to predict, and be able to prevent situations like the current one…

That is why we have established new unit – Centre for political and regional studies – in CIUS," he said.

Greetings were brought from all three levels of government.

Speaking for the Province, Bonnyville - Cold Lake MLA Genia Leskiw commended the museum for "Providing Albertans with an opportunity to fully experience the expanse – the diversity – of Ukrainian culture."

"The works being displayed are sure to help foster cross-cultural understanding and this exhibit is a perfect demonstration of how culture connects us.

"It connects us to our past, to our heritage, to one another and to the world around us," she added.

Representing the City of Edmonton, Councillor Scott McKeen stated that the exhibit "reflects the diversity within Ukraine and provides some context to understanding the country's history and national identity:

"And it reminds us that we're all shaped by our heritage, and we're all part of the cultural mosaic that is a source of pride to Edmontonians."

Edmonton-Strathcona federal MP Linda Duncan was unable to attend in person, but sent a greeting which was read out by Harasymiw.

"For seven decades, this museum through the volunteer commitment of the Ukrainian Women's Association, has showcased Ukrainian culture and artistic endeavours in the City of Edmonton.

"It is my hope that Edmontonians as well as visitors to our city will take the time to view this new exhibit. Through the dedicated efforts of your dedicated volunteers many will be given the opportunity to discover and appreciate the rich contribution made to our Western Canadian cultural mosaic by immigrants from Ukraine," she said.

The opening also featured an artistic component with Mitchell Palahniuk playing the tsymbaly and the My Ukrainian Dance Academy performing a moving tribute to the Maidan.

Goldring pays tribute to Diachuk

(UkrNews)—Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East paid tribute in the House of Commons Oct. 29 to former Minister of Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation and Beverly MLA Bill Diachuk.

"Born in 1929, Bill attended the University of Alberta and was very active in community affairs which led him to serve as Edmonton's Catholic School Board trustee for years," said Goldring

"For 25 years Bill volunteered full-time with Ukrainian Canadian Social Services, tirelessly advocating for others in Canada and contributing to community development in foreign countries.

"I met with Bill many times at my office where he was the consummate humanitarian advocating for others well-being. I recall his attendance in full Knights of Columbus regalia at every Remembrance Day ceremony at Alberta's oldest cenotaph in Beverly.

"My sincere condolence to Ollie, Bill's wife of 62 years, their children and grandchildren. Bill set the standard of excellence in service towards his fellow man. Bill will be dearly missed by all.

"Memories Eternal," he concluded

ЗІГРІЙ ЗАХИСНИКА УКРАЇНИ

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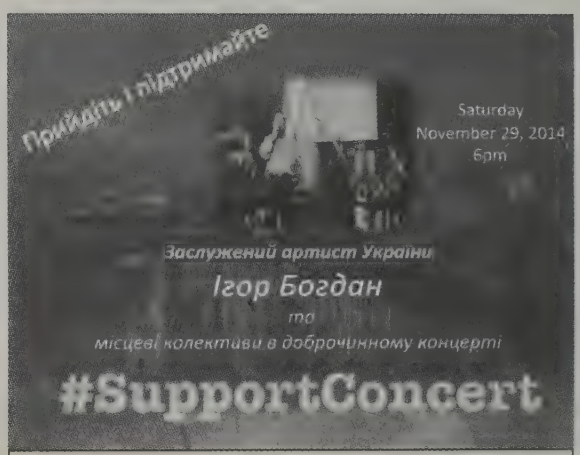

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Акція протесту в Брізбані, Австралія. Зліва стоїть Стефан Романів, Генеральний Секретар Світового Конгресу Українців.

Діаспора влаштувала Путіну «теплий» прийом в Австралії

(Радіо Свобода)—Кілька сотень людей в Австралії влаштували президенту РФ Владіміру Путіну пікет проти його агресії в Україні, а також проти самого його візиту на саміт G-20.

Про це повідомляє Дзеркало тижня.

Учасники акції протесту, які приїхали з різних міст Австралії, підготували безліч плакатів, а також «лежачий» флешмоб проти його політики, що в прямому сенсі вбиває.

Учасники, більшість з яких були одягнені в національні українські костюми, тримали синьо-жовті прапори, плакати з написами «Зупиніть Путіна», «Путін, забирайся з України» та інші.

Активісти також вшанували пам'ять загиблих у збитому «Боїнгу-777» над територією, контрольованою проросійськими бойовиками: лягли на землю, а їх накрили прапорами країн, громадян яких загинули в катастрофі.

Також протестувальники вимагали «виключити Владіміра Путіна з «Великої двадцятки».

Акція протесту в Брізбані,

Генпрокуратура заарештувала майже 35 мільярдів гривень Януковича і його команди

(Радіо Свобода)—Генеральна прокуратура України відкрила понад 30 кримінальних проваджень стосовно екс-президента Віктора Януковича і його «команди». Їм всім також повідомлено про підозру у вчиненні кримінальних правопорушень, і оголошено в розшук, заявляє генпрокурор Віталій Ярема.

У своїй статті «Список справедливості» в тижневику «Дзеркало тижня. Україна» (DT.UA) Ярема наголошує, що на першому місці в списку – розслідування фактів масштабного розкрадання бюджетних коштів.

«З метою відшкодування завданих державі збитків під час досудового розслідування в Україні накладено арешти на банківські вклади, цінні папери та інші активи на загальну суму понад 6,2 мільярда гривень та 1,8 мільярда доларів, а також на рухоме і нерухоме майно колишніх високих посадових осіб», – пише генпрокурор.

Крім того, за його словами, з ініціативи Генпрокуратури, рішенням Ради ЄС застосовано обмежувальні санкції стосовно 22 колишніх українських високопоставлених чиновників і пов'язаних з ними осіб. Аналогічні санкції застосували уряди США, Канади та Швейцарії. На банківських рахунках у Швейцарії, Латвії, Ліхтенштейні заарештовано кошти колишніх високих посадових осіб, стверджує генпрокурор.

Ярема також зазначив, що у серпні поточного року Генпрокуратура підписала угоду про співпрацю з Міжнародним центром із повернення активів Базельського інституту управління, який є провідною неурядовою організацією в питаннях розслідування справ, пов'язаних із корупцією та відмиванням коштів.

Олександр Дольницький про дослідження сонячної системи

Дагмара Турчин-Дувірак,
пресовий референт НТШ.

Доповіді з природничих наук відбуваються таки нечасто в Науковому Товаристві ім. Шевченка в Канаді. Тим більшою рідкістю є астрономічна доповідь. Саме тому, 24 жовтня на чергове засідання НТШ в Торонто, де виступив інженер Олександр Дольницький з розповіддю про сучасний стан досліджень нашої Сонячної системи, зібралась досить значна група зацікавлених слухачів. Пан Дольницький не є професійним астрономом. Він закінчив Університет Мак Ґілл як інженер-механік і працював конструктором авіадвигунів, дизайнером компресорних систем для атомних елекстростанцій в Канаді і Швейцарії, а пізніше –і інженером комп'ютерних систем. Нещодавно він долучився до дирекції НТШ, зайнявшись модернізацією веб-сторінки Товариства. Астрономія – це його нове зацікавлення: від 2010 року інж. Дольницький є активним членом Королівського астрономічного товариства Канади та всіляко сприяє популяризації астрономії в суспільстві. Своїми знаннями в ділянці астрономічних досліджень він і поділився з численною громадою у новому приміщенні КУМФ, що на вул.Еванс.

Як і коли виникла наша Сонячна система? Як вважають сьогодні науковці, сталося це 4,6 мільярдів років тому внаслідок вибуху близької зірки (Супернова), що спричинила до скупчення хмари газу і пилу (в основному водню і гелію). З часом, ці скупчення наросли до сонця і планет. Перші 600 мільйонів років Сонячної системи відбувалися надзвичайно бурхливо, супроводжуючись лавиною метеоритів і комет. Лише після того наступив відносний спокій і на землі виникли перші форми життя – бактерії. Розвинені ж форми життя з'явилися значно пізніше – приблизно 500 мільйонів років тому.

Чи є у всесвіті сонячні системи, подібні до нашої, і чи існує десь життя поза нашою землею? На ці питання вчені все ще не мають відповіді. За їхніми спостереженнями, структура нашої Сонячної системи виглядає досить винятковою. Наявність води і рідин на Марсі та на деяких супутниках Юпітера і Сатурна , а також органічних молекул на кометах і астероїдах пробуджує оптимізм та спонукає до подальших досліджень ознак життя в межах нашої системи. Щодо розвідок інших зірок, то цей процес лише починається, а, отже, не дозволяє поки що йти поза межі чисто теоретичних гіпотез.

ФОТО — ХРИСТЯ КОЛОС

Інж. О. Дольницький підчас презентації

Досить детально інж.Дольницький розглянув головні інструменти дослідження Всесвіту – телескопи та зонди. Всесвітній зонд – це безпілотний апарат, запущений в космос для збирання наукової інформації. За останні 56 років було вислано тисячі космічних зондів. Наприклад, 63 зонди відвідали Марс, 100 зондів відправлено на Місяць – це, до речі, єдине нéбесне тіло, яке відвідали люди. Американський зонд New Horizons відіслано з метою вивчення Плутону, зонд Juno –також американський – досліджувати Юпітер. Європейський зонд Rosetta приземлився на кометі 67P Чурюмова-Герасименко, названій на честь двох українських астрономів, що її відкрили. Також, 5 зондів запустили поза нашу Сонячну систему. Один з них, Voyager 1, перебуває на віддалі 130 астрономічних одиниць від Землі. Щоб досягнути до нас, його сигнал йде 17 годин.

Щодо телескопів, то великі надії покладаються на космічний телескоп Джеймс Веббс, який планують запустити в 2018 році для дослідження екзопланет довкола близьких зірок. Він допоможе вченим відповісти на питання: чи багато подібних до Землі планет у так званій "населеній зоні" зірок? Чи є там океани, кисень в атсосфері, а, можливо, і життя?

Наприкінці, інж. Дольницький поставив важливе питання: навіщо нам вивчати всесвіт? Чи це є, справді, лише природня цікавість людства до відвічних таємниць зоряного неба, чи, може, за цим криється практична необхідність? На думку доповідача, головним рушієм є власне друге. Людство постійно перебуває під загрозою. За період людського існування – приблизно 500 млн. років – було принаймі 6 масових вимирань. *Рано чи пізно Земля може стати* непридатною для життя, і тоді виникне необхідність колонізації космічного простору. Можливо, перша колонія постане на Марсі, де колись була атмосфера а, може, й життя. Недаремно НАСА планує до 2030 року першу місію людини на Марс.

Доповідь інж.Дольницького була чудово ілюстрована видовими матеріалами, що допомагали сприймати не зовсім звичну "космічну" інформацію. Велике зацікавлення викликали й уламки "небесних гостей" – метеоритів, які п.Дольницький показав наприкінці своєї доповіді. Вечір завершився жвавою дискусією щодо майбутніх зоряних мандрівок та колонізації всесвіту.

У Радбезі ООН сварили Росію за зброю, «вибори» та висловили занепокоєння

(Голос Америки)—У ході екстреного засідання Ради безпеки ООН з приводу кризи в Україні пролунали численні критичні заяви з приводу ролі Росії в ескалації конфлікту на сході України.

Так, представник Великої Британії заявив, що Росія «продовжує направляти солдат в Україну і надавати сепаратистам важке озброєння, що є порушенням мінських домовленостей».

Він також відзначив, що Росія блокує моніторинг кордону між Україною та Росією та звернув увагу на погіршення ситуації із правами людини у Криму.

«Росія цинічно і селективно підходить до мінських угод і продовжує дестабілізацію в Україні», – відзначив представник Великої Британії.

«Закликаємо Росію вивести зброю та військових з України та використати свій вплив для припинення вогню», – заявив дипломат.

Представник Китаю висловив сподівання на «можливість політичного врегулювання конфлікту на Сході України» та заявив, що у Пекіні розраховують, що «всі сторони вестимуть конструктивний діалог».

Рішуче засудила втручання у внутрішні справи України Франція.

Постпред Франції також заявив, що «дані місії ОБСЄ про перекидання бронетехніки викликають глибоке занепокоєння».

Помстою з боку Росії назвав конфлікт в Україні представник Литви.

«Україна робить все від себе залежне, щоб врегулювати ситуацію, РФ має припинити погрожувати сусідам і дозволити моніторинг ситуації», – цитує представника Литви МЗС України у Twitter.

«Намагання Росії перекреслити 25 років після падіння Берлінської стіни - це злочин», – відзначив представник Литви в Радбезі ООН.

Литва також закликала Росію «відмовитись від підтримки сепаратистів та засудити усі спроби самопроголошених лідерів створити паралельні владні структури на сході України».

Між тим представник Чилі закликав «усі сторони до мирного вирішення кризи та утримання від застосування односторонніх заходів», а представник Люксембургу назвав організовані сепаратистами на сході України «вибори» «фарсом», засудив їх підтримку з боку Росії та закликав Росію «припинити розкручення спіралі конфлікту в Україні».

«Вибори» було засуджено також представником Південної Кореї.

Reverend Dr. Athanasius D. McVay presenting his book.

Biography of Bishop Budka launched in Edmonton

(CIUS)—"Every community has an obligation to allow its past to challenge its present." With these words, the Reverend Dr. Athanasius D. McVay introduced his newly published book, God's Martyr, History's Witness: Blessed Nykyta Budka, The First Ukrainian Catholic Bishop in Canada, to a gathering of more than a hundred people at St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Edmonton, Canada, on 24 October 2014. "History," the pioneer bishop told his flock in his first formal message, "is the teacher of life."

Father McVay went on to note that in 1965 the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on the Church in the Modern World asserted that "man is defined, first of all, by his responsibility to his brothers and to history." Much the same had already been expressed by Bishop Nykyta Budka (1877–1949) four decades earlier, said Father McVay. "My responsibility before God and history is very great," was the bishop's declaration about his mission in Canada.

Among other things, Father McVay continued, the biography "tells the story of a human being complete with virtues and imperfections, of great successes and of crushing failures." In spite of it all, he said, Bishop Budka was successful in fulfilling the mission entrusted to him — to sustain the faith among his people.

Bishop Budka departed Canada in 1928, and after the annexation of western Ukraine to the USSR he was imprisoned by the Soviet authorities in 1945. He was deported to Kazakhstan in Soviet Central Asia, where he died in 1949. In 2001, Pope Saint John Paul II beatified Budka as a martyr. But even from the grave, Father McVay affirmed, the Blessed Martyr's figure and accomplishments would continue to inspire people. On 27 June each year, the author observed, thirteen million Catholics across Canada "commemorate a life of dedicated service that culminated in the supreme testimony of a Christian martyr's death."

The book launch was held as part of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies' seminar series and was emceed by Jars Balan, administrative coordinator of the Kule Ukrainian Canadian Studies Centre (KUCSC) at CIUS. Dr. Volodymyr Kravchenko, director of CIUS, brought greetings from the institute. Videoed greetings from the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies (MASI), co-publisher of the book and a co-sponsor of the event, were delivered by the Very Reverend Dr. Peter Galadza from Ottawa. Orest Eveneshen, president of the Bishop Budka Charitable Society (BBCS), explained the role of that organization in the biography project and paid tribute to the late John Koziak (founder of the organization named for Bishop Budka) and the late Bill Diachuk, who as president at the time enthusiastically agreed to the group's involvement. The project advisor, Dr. Serge Cipko of KUCSC, who is also with the BBCS, drew attention to the acknowledgements page of the book, which lists contributing individuals and organizations. He mentioned the technical work performed by Ksenia Maryniak and the financial contributions made by individuals and groups besides the BBCS, such as the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko (Winnipeg) and the Stephen and Michelene Worobetz Foundation (Saskatoon). He also thanked the sponsors and organizers of the event.

Concluding remarks were given by the Most Reverend David Motiuk, bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton, co-publisher of the book with MASI. Bishop Motiuk, the initiator of the biography project, noted that Father Athanasius took on the research and writing with passion and was a great storyteller. He "weaved a beautiful tapestry of a human being who made a great contribution to the Church in Canada and beyond" and who sacrificed his life as a martyr for the faith. Bishop Motiuk stressed the work and dedication of Father McVay in bringing the study, a work of more than 600 pages, to fruition. He then provided examples from the book. One of them concerned a meeting between Bishop Budka and Pope Saint Pius X, in which the future saint told the young bishop: "Your diocese is the largest in the whole world. But I rejoice in seeing you so young. You have a very broad territory, so you can fly. You cannot do everything, [so] do what you can." The last sentence is a good mantra for each and every one of us to live by, said Bishop Motiuk.

Bishop Motiuk recalled that in his greetings, Father Galadza had wished Father Athanasius "Mnohiï libri" (Ukrainian: many, and Latin: books) and noted that that wish was already on its way to becoming true. Father Athanasius, announced Bishop Motiuk, has been asked by the Ukrainian Catholic bishops of Canada to write a biography of Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky, and beyond that, another book on the history of the Church in Canada.

"Your people love the Most Blessed Virgin Mary," Bishop Budka reported Pope Saint Pius X saying to him before he left Europe for Canada. After mentioning the Blessed Martyr's role in the rebuilding of the Shrine of Mary, the Mother of God, in the Ukrainian village of Zarvanytsia, Bishop Motiuk closed the evening with the prayer "Bohorodytse Divo" (Hail Mary).

The book is available for $25.00 (plus postage) from the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton (http://www.edmontoneparchy.com/contact-us/chancery-office/).

Yatsenyuk says Kyiv won't talk to Moscow's mercenaries

(RFE/RL)—Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk has rejected a Russian call for direct talks between Kyiv and pro-Russian separatists, saying his government would not to talk to Moscow's "mercenaries."

Yatsenyuk made the remarks at a government meeting after Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, speaking in the lower house of parliament on November 19, called for "establishing stable contacts between Kyiv and Donbas aimed at reaching mutually acceptable agreements."

Donbas is a term for an industrial section of eastern Ukraine where pro-Russian rebels hold large parts of two provinces.

Yatsenyuk said in Russian, "We will not hold direct talks with your mercenaries."

He called on Moscow to "stop playing games aimed at legitimizing bandits and terrorists."

"If you want peace — fulfill the Minsk agreement," Yatsenyuk said, referring to a September 5 agreement, which Russia signed off on, that imposed a cease-fire and set out steps toward peace.

Russia's central bank lets ruble float

(RFE/RL)—Russia's central bank has announced that it will not intervene to prop up the ruble, which has lost nearly 40 percent of its value this year under the pressure of Western sanctions.

The Bank of Russia announced in a November 10 statement that it was immediately removing the range it had fixed for the ruble up until now.

The bank had been burning through its $400 billion in reserves to cushion the drop of the ruble, spending a reported $30 billion in October alone to support the national currency.

The bank statement said the decision to allow the ruble to float freely "did not amount to a total renunciation of any interventions in the currency market, which would be possible in case a threat to financial stability appears."

The ruble had dropped to 48 to the U.S. dollar on November 7, but the Russian central bank's November 10 announcement lifted the ruble to 45 to the dollar.

Earlier in day, President Vladimir Putin expressed confidence that the plummeting ruble will stabilize, saying its volatility is not tied to the country's economy.

Speaking in Beijing ahead of an Asia-Pacific summit, Putin blamed currency speculation for what he called the "serious fluctuation" of the ruble.

Despite Putin's confident remarks, Russia's central bank has forecast three years of stagnation, cutting economic growth estimates for 2014-16 to almost zero.

The bank's predictions suggested that Western sanctions and lower oil prices are clouding Russia's prospects in the final years of President Vladimir Putin's third term.

The base scenario set out in an annual monetary policy strategy document issued on November 10 forecast economic growth of 0.3 percent this year, zero in 2015, and 0.1 percent in 2016.

The bank's forecast anticipated that Western sanctions imposed over Russia's actions in Ukraine would last at least until the end of 2017.

It was based on the assumption that the oil price will rise to $95 per barrel next year but then decline again.

It predicted better growth rates if the sanctions are lifted earlier or oil prices are higher than expected.

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Jews reject Russia claims of Ukraine anti-Semitism

By Masha Kondrachuk and Stephen Ennis

(BBC Monitoring)—Leaders of Ukraine's Jewish community have come out strongly in support of the Kyiv government in its conflict with Russia, rejecting Moscow's accusations that their country is now a hotbed of anti-Semitism.

But some are uneasy about the far-right extremists fighting with Ukrainian volunteer battalions in the east, as well as incidents of "everyday anti-Semitism" in Ukraine.

Russian media and officials have been portraying Ukraine as a hotbed of far-right extremism, including anti-Semitism, ever since former President Viktor Yanukovych was removed from power at the end of February.

In his first public reaction to Yanukovych's downfall, President Vladimir Putin told journalists on 4 March: "We see the rampage of reactionary forces, nationalist and anti-Semitic forces going on in certain parts of Ukraine, including Kyiv."

He used similar language in his speech declaring the annexation of Crimea two weeks later, when he said that the "coup" against Yanukovych was the work of "nationalists, neo-Nazis, Russophobes and anti-Semites".

The Association of Jewish Organisations and Communities (VAAD) of Ukraine responded with an open letter saying that President Putin's assertions about the rise of anti-Semitism in their country "did not match reality".

Putin's advisers "might have confused Ukraine with Russia where Jewish organisations registered a rise of anti-Semitism last year", it added.

Shmuel Kaminetsky, a rabbi in Dnipropetrovsk, home to one of the country's largest Jewish communities, also rejects the idea that Ukraine is anti-Semitic.

Russian media warn of the threat of Dmitry Yarosh's Right Sector, but the party's electoral support is not high

Life is "easier and safer" for Jews in Ukraine than in Western countries such as Belgium and France, where radical Islam is on the rise, he said in a recent film about efforts to defend Dnipropetrovsk against the Russian-backed insurgency.

Ever since Yanukovych's downfall, Russian media have played up the threat from Ukrainian far-right organisations, such as Right Sector and the Freedom party.

But neither of these parties has widespread support. In the presidential election in May their leaders obtained a combined vote of less than 2%. They also failed to breach the 5% threshold in the recent parliamentary election.

Still, concerns remain about the presence of far-right extremists in some parts of Ukrainian society, especially the new volunteer battalions, which have played a key role in the current conflict.

VAAD Ukraine director Yosyp Zisels told a news conference in October that the volunteers were fighting "bravely" for Ukraine's "sovereignty and territorial integrity". But he conceded some of them held views that are "Nazi, ultranationalist and racist".

Far-right extremists and fascists were fighting on both sides of the conflict, Zisels said.

A key figure in organising and financing the Ukrainian volunteer battalions is Dnipropetrovsk regional governor and businessman Ihor Kolomoisky, an important member of the Dnipropetrovsk Jewish community and himself a frequent target of attacks in the Russian media.

Kolomoisky is actively involved with the Fund for the Defence of the Country, which collects money to provide Ukrainian troops with medicines, food and equipment. It also helps to look after people displaced by the conflict.

Some local synagogues have also joined the war effort.

"We are providing comprehensive assistance to servicemen fighting against terrorists and protecting the unity and integrity of Ukraine. We are calling on Dnipropetrovsk's Jews to actively help them," the city's Golden Rose synagogue said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Jewish leaders are increasingly concerned about the fate of fellow Jews in areas controlled by the insurgents, especially after the murder of Jewish businessman Heorhiy Zilberbrod in Donetsk in August.

In September, at least 100 Jewish families fled Donetsk to the government-controlled city of Mariupol, according to Donetsk rabbi Pinkhas Vyshedsky.

Rabbi Vyshedsky himself recently moved his office to Kyiv "to help Jews from his city who found refuge in the capital and other parts of the country", Jewish website Chabad.org said.

"Jews are running away from the Russian world to hide under the wing of the fascist Kyiv junta? What more can one say?" news website Argument UA commented.

Nevertheless, some Jews are also concerned about their safety in Kyiv.

In September, swastikas were painted on the Babi Yar Holocaust memorial in Kyiv, where 34,000 Jews were murdered in the course of a week in September 1941.

Commenting on the incident, World Jewish Congress vice-president Boris Fuchsman said: "We often say that there is no anti-Semitism at the state level today, but no-one has rooted out everyday anti-Semitism."

Tzvi Arieli, a former member of the Israeli army, has set up a Jewish self-defence group in Kyiv to protect the community against possible anti-Semitic attacks.

"Jews are often among the first to fall victim in conflicts even if they are not directly involved, therefore we need to be able to protect our community in co-ordination with the authorities, of course," he told Jewish newspaper Hadashot.

His group hones its combat skills together with interior ministry units, and is licensed to carry arms.

But Arieli rejects the Russian media's portrayal of Ukraine as a country that is hostile to Jews.

"There can be opposing views, but don't say black is white, which is what the propaganda of the neighbouring state often does when it advances the thesis of buoyant neo-fascism in Ukraine," he said.

Victor Pinchuk, businessman and philanthropist; Rabbi Yaakov Dov Bleich, of the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine; Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the Major Archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

Pinchuk presented with Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Award

(PinchukFund)—November 18 in Kyiv, Ukrainian businessman and philanthropist Victor Pinchuk was presented with the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Award – 2014 for his work in fostering Ukrainian-Jewish relations and advancing his homeland's European aspirations.

Pinchuk is being recognized for his philanthropic endeavours — principally through the Victor Pinchuk Foundation and the Yalta European Strategy — in support of Jewish cultural life in Ukraine, major research projects and exhibits related to the Holocaust, documentary films that have forthrightly examined the crimes committed during the Holocaust as well as advancing Ukraine's European path based on the values of inter-ethnic and inter-faith tolerance.

The Sheptytsky Award is conferred by the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter, a Canadian charitable organization based in Toronto, on an annual basis to an individual in Ukraine, Israel, or from the diasporas who has made important contributions to Ukrainian-Jewish understanding and cooperation.

Alti Rodal, UJE Co-Director said it was appropriate that Pinchuk was presented with the Sheptytsky Award: "In both times of crisis and normalcy, Sheptytsky and Pinchuk aspired towards and concretely contributed to interfaith and interethnic harmony on Ukrainian lands. As men of substantial means and culture, both were not satisfied to simply enjoy art and culture, but made special efforts to bring these human gifts to the people by establishing museums and educational programs," she said. "By granting the Sheptytsky Award to Pinchuk, post-Maidan and at this time of crisis, we are acknowledging not only Sheptytsky's extraordinary compassionate and courageous actions in saving Jews during the war, but also the compelling aspirations of contemporary Ukrainians to build a tolerant and just society for all its citizens."

Receiving the award Pinchuk stated: "For Ukrainians tolerance has a greater meaning than for the majority of other people. Ukrainians must remain tolerant towards each other. Intolerance should only be practiced in respect of discrimination, corruption, totalitarianism, aggression, annexation and chauvinism. And this, I believe, is the main lesson of the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky: one must tolerate everything except evil."

"The Sheptytsky award has a particular significance for me. For many years I have been doing everything for rapprochement and integration of Jewish and "non-Jewish" parts of the Ukrainian people. And today I can see that they are united within Ukrainian civil society. And I, a Russian-speaking Ukrainian of Jewish descent, not only see myself as an integral part of a modern, open, tolerant Ukrainian nation, but also feel really proud of it, " he added.

Three of the world's leading voices in support of Ukraine came to Kyiv to speak at a ceremony honoring Pinchuk, including French philosopher and writer Bernard-Henri Levy, former Polish president Aleksander Kwasniewski and U.S. scholar Timothy Snyder. Other dignitaries speaking at the event included Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Prime-minister of Ukraine; Sviatoslav Shevchuk, Patriarch of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church; Rabbi Yaakov Dov Bleich, of the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine; Patriarch Filaret, Ukraine Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Kyiv Patriarchate; Vitali Klitschko, Mayor of Kyiv, and others. More than 100 Ukraine's political, business and cultural leaders attended the event.

Pinchuk is the second winner of the Sheptytsky Award. In 2013, it was presented by the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine to James Constantin Temerty, Canadian-Ukrainian businessman, philanthropist, and founder of the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter.

In 2014, the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter agreed to join with the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine to administer the Sheptytsky Award.

Born in 1865 to a prominent family, Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky was the spiritual leader of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church from 1901 until his death in 1944. During World War II, he helped save more than the 150 Jewish lives. The Metropolitan sheltered Jews in his own residence at great personal risk, and arranged for Church monasteries to protect well over one hundred Jewish children, not one of whom was betrayed or lost. Metropolitan Sheptytsky protested against Germany's murderous policies towards Jews, alerted Pope Pius XII in personal reports about the mass murders taking place on the territory of what is now Ukraine and issued a pastoral letter in November 1942 on the theme Thou Shalt Not Kill, urging his parishioners not to participate in Nazi atrocities.

Throughout his life, the Metropolitan was dedicated to preserving Ukraine's cultural heritage. He collected icons and objects of art, and as a patron of the arts and philanthropist, supported many prominent Ukrainian artists. Today, his collection is the basis of the Andrey Sheptytsky National Museum in Lviv.

Yanukovych-era counterintel chief arrested

(RFE/RL)—A state security officer who was Ukraine's counterintelligence chief in the final weeks of former President Viktor Yanukovych's rule has been arrested on suspicion of "high treason."

The head of Ukraine's Security Service (SBU), Valentyn Nalyvaychenko, said in a televised interview late on November 9 that Volodymyr Bik is suspected of helping "a foreign country to prepare saboteur activities in Ukraine."

Nalyvaychenko said Bik was arrested on November 8. He had been appointed on February 5, weeks before Yanukovych fled to Russia following huge protests over his decision to abandon plans to tighten ties with Europe.

Nalyvaychenko said investigators are still searching for former SBU chief Oleksandr Yakymenko, who is wanted for alleged giving a command to shoot at the protesters.

Yakymenko and Bik disappeared after Yanukovych's ouster.

Nalyvaychenko said 25 high treason probes have been launched against Yanukovych-era SBU officials.

Journalists find 'solid' Russian ties to missile that hit MH17

By Katya Gorchinskaya,
Kyiv Post

After analyzing a massive volume of data from open sources, a team of British investigative journalists has found "solid information" that the Buk missile system that downed Malaysian Airlines flight 17 in July came from Russia, and was sent back there after the disaster. They also traced the Buk's military convoy back to its base in Russia.

"If it is confirmed a Buk missile was used and the launch site is established by the official investigation as being Snizhne (in Donetsk Oblast), it seems clear the launcher came from Russia, and the government bears the responsibility for killing hundreds of innocent civilians on MH17," says Eliot Higgins, who led the team of investigative journalists.

Malaysian Airlines flight 17 was shot down over Ukraine's eastern region of Donetsk on July 17 en route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur. All 283 passengers aboard and 15 crew members died as the aircraft fell to bits in the air.

The plane lost contact with air traffic control about 50 kilometers from the Ukrainian-Russian border in Donetsk Oblast, and crashed close to the town of Torez. Ukrainian and Western intelligence services said that all their data gathered in the wake of the crash point to the plane being shot down by a Buk surface-to-air missile fired from the territory controlled by Russia-backed insurgents, close to Snizhne.

There was also evidence that the Buk system arrived from Russia, and was moved back over the border after the plane crash. But the Russian authorities deny these allegations, and pointed the finger at the Ukrainians, saying the plane was shot down by a Ukrainian military aircraft.

A preliminary report issued by the Dutch Safety Board, which is investigating the crash, concluded last month that several civilian airlines were flying in the area on the date of the crash, but there were no military planes that would be capable of shooting down MH17. Its final report is due a year after the crash.

Members of a Dutch recovery team look on as wreckage from Malaysia Airlines Flight 17

Access to the crash site has been limited because of the ongoing war in the region. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said on Nov. 6 that an international team of investigators was able to access the crash site the previous week, and "found remains of victims, which will be transferred to the Netherlands following the usual ceremonial protocol."

"We will continue to take every opportunity to go to the site," a government website quoted him as saying. In the meantime, Higgins says he had realized that massive volumes of information were out in the social media that could help the investigation, and he was one of the few people in the world who could make sense of it.

"In my experience, it seemed unlikely the official investigation would look at this information in the same way we do, so it's my feeling this would contribute to the investigation of what happened to MH17, looking at evidence that would otherwise be overlooked," Higgins says. He also says he is passing all his findings "to the appropriate authorities."

Higgins' investigation team looked into three areas related to the Buk missile launch system suspected of shooting down the plane. First of all, its movements on the day of the tragedy were reconstructed using photo and video materials available online.

Secondly, the team examined the evidence that the Buk filmed and photographed on the day of the tragedy originated in Russia and was part of a convoy heading to the Ukrainian border in late June. And thirdly, the team looked at evidence that the same convoy returned from the Ukrainian border region shortly after July 17.

"There is undeniable evidence that separatists in Ukraine were in control of a Buk missile launcher on July 17, transporting it from Donetsk to Snizhne on a transporter, where it was unloaded a few hours before the downing of MH17, and later filmed, minus one missile, driving through separatist controlled Luhansk," the team's report concludes.

The team of investigative journalists discovered that the same Buk missile system was a part of a convoy traveling from the 53rd air defense brigade in Kursk to near the Ukrainian border as part of a training exercise between June 22 and July 25. Parts of the same unit returned back to base after July 17.

All this information about the military convoy from Kursk was harvested from 15 videos in social networks, including Vkontakte, Youtube, Instagram and Odnoklassniki. The team identified the exact location of each video and unique markings of individual vehicles that were part of the convoy. They were then matched to earlier satellite images of the 53rd air defense brigade at its base.

The Buk missile system that was used to shoot down MH17 was also identified in various photo and video images, using two types of markers. First of all, journalists analyzed unique markings on the vehicle that appeared when Russian separatists made an attempt to obscure the original unit designation number, and tracing these markings on each video image and photographs of the missile system, including those taken by Paris Match and other Western media after the airplane crash.

Also, the team used another unique marker of each vehicle for tracing, the so-called "rubber skirt fingerprint." The term is a reference for a unique pattern of damage of the rubber skirt that runs around the tracks of the Buk system.

The team then traced all details of the movement of this system on July 17, the day of the disaster, in the Donetsk region, analyzing the shadows and data incorporated into video files to determine the exact time and place where the images were taken.

It was discovered that most of the time the Buk system was transported on a low-loader, but a photograph and a video taken outside of Snizhne on July 17 and posted on Twitter and Youtube, showed the vehicle moving under its own power.

Both images were taken around the same time, 1:30 p.m., and within one kilometer from each other south of Snizhne, close to where the launch site is believed to be located. The Malaysian flight was downed at 1:20 p.m. local time.

The team then traced the vehicle back outside of Ukraine using the same tools. One of the videos from Luhansk used for analyzing the vehicle's movement post-launch, showed a missile missing from the Buk system.

The video was released by the Ukrainian Interior Ministry, and then ridiculed by Russia's Ministry of Defense as "clearly a fabrication" produced on the territory controlled by Ukrainian troops. The British journalists traced the location of the video to 75 kilometers north of Snizhne and said the Russian ministry's statement was "untrue."

Tough new sanctions against Russia do not appear imminent

By Ian Bateson, *Kyiv Post*

Western capitals are talking about imposing sanctions on Russia again, but there is little movement despite Russia's continued support of separatists and a buildup of Russian military hardware in eastern Ukraine.

After a Nov. 2 election widely criticized by Western and Ukrainian leaders as violating the Minsk peace agreements, separatist leaders show no signs of retreating from their goal of creating independent Russia-aligned statelets in Donetsk and Luhansk. In contrast to Western denunciations of the vote, Moscow says it "respects" it though its end goals besides a continued destabilization of Ukraine remain unclear.

As winter approaches, Ukrainian and Western officials fear that the Kremlin is up to its old deceptive tricks as a military equipment continues to enter Ukraine's separatist east from Russia despite ongoing negotiations.

European Union foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini told reporters in Berlin on Nov. 11 that recent events in Ukraine "demand a response from the international community." She added that EU foreign ministers would meet on Nov. 17 to discuss new sanctions and ways to support Ukraine.

British Prime Minister David Cameron has taken a leading role in pushing for harsher sanction on Russia. "Russia's illegal actions are destabilizing a sovereign state and violating its territorial integrity," he said in London's financial district on Nov. 9. "We shouldn't need to be reminded of the consequences of turning a blind eye when big countries in Europe bully smaller countries."

American leaders have also been pushing for expanded sanctions. In a statement on Nov. 9, U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki yet again condemned Russia's violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity and said that "costs to Russia will rise" if Moscow continues ignore its commitments under Minsk peace agreements, which called for de-militarization of the conflict and political autonomy in the east within Ukraine.

The U.S. has generally taken a more aggressive stand on sanctions against Russia than the EU, which is the main market for Russia's energy exports. Germany is Russia's largest trading partner within the EU, but continues to be hesitant to impose new economic sanctions on Russia. "Further economic sanctions are not planned at the moment. We are focusing on the winter and the humanitarian situation there and how to get a real ceasefire," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Nov. 11.

Although a failure to expand economic sanctions against Russia is unwelcome news in Kyiv, Merkel suggested that a toughening of travel bans and asset freezes against individuals may be forthcoming.

"Likely there will be more names associated with the elections held in DPR and LPR (Donetsk and Luhansk self-proclaimed republics). Recently Merkel said she favored adding more individuals to the sanctions list," said Timothy Ash, head of emerging market research for Standard Bank in London.

Current sanctions have curtailed the ability of Russian banks and other institutions to borrow from Western financial institutions. Russia's economic growth has nearly ground to a halt with the ruble losing 29 percent of its value against the dollar since the beginning of the year, according to Bloomberg. The sharp drop in oil prices, dipping below $80 a barrel, has also contributed to Russia's economic woes.

But the sanctions and decline in oil export revenue haven't prompted Russian President Vladimir Putin to back down on Ukraine. Andrei Purgin, deputy premier of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, was invited to the upper house of Russia's parliament on Nov. 10. There he told Russian senators the recent vote was "a sign people trust the current authorities."

Some experts worry that Putin simply has no concern for the Russian economy.

"Vladimir Putin does not understand economics. He does not like it. It is dry. It's boring to hear these reports, to read them. He likes clear things: Russia's moving ahead; how great everything is," said former Putin aide Sergei Pugachev in a recent interview with Time Magazine. "Putin's close circle understands that he likes good news, so they always bring him good news, whatever is happening."

OSCE says risk of escalation rising'

(RFE/RL)—The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) says the risk of an escalation in violence in conflict-wracked eastern Ukraine is "rising."

Michael Bociurkiw of the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine told a press conference in Kyiv on November 11 that more than two months after a ceasefire agreement between Ukraine and the pro-Russian separatists, "the firing has not ceased."

A November 11 report from the OSCE said members of its special monitoring mission to Ukraine observed an unmarked military convoy on the eastern outskirts of the separatist-held city of Donetsk earlier in the day.

The OSCE monitors reported seeing 43 vehicles moving toward the city center and "five of the trucks were each towing 120mm howitzer artillery pieces. Another five were each towing partly covered multi-launch rocket systems."

It was the latest in a series of reports of unmarked military vehicles and heavy weapons being moved into separatist-held areas of eastern Ukraine.

There are concerns that pro-Russian rebels could be gearing up for a fresh offensive in eastern Ukraine despite the September 5 agreement.

Meanwhile, NATO's top commander also said that about eight Russian battalion task groups have been sighted in the area along the Ukrainian border.

U.S. General Philip Breedlove, speaking to journalists at a NATO base near Naples, Italy, also said Russia has been reinforcing its bases in Crimea, which Russia illegally annexed in March, but it was unclear if that included deployment of nuclear weapons.

Breedlove said forces "capable of being nuclear" have been deployed in Crimea but there was so far no indication nuclear weapons have been brought to the peninsula.

Ukrainian troops brace for trouble in Mariupol

By Kitty Logan

(Deutsche Welle)—Compared to other cities affected by conflict in eastern Ukraine, the center of Mariupol is bustling. Shops are open, the streets full of cars and buses. People are going to work.

But echoing across the main Lenina Avenue is the sound of shelling. Just east of the city Ukrainian government forces are exchanging artillery fire with rebel troops. The rebel leadership in Donetsk has repeatedly threatened to retake Mariupol, which its forces previously held before being driven out by Ukrainian troops.

The newly elected rebel leader, Alexander Zakharchenko, says the Minsk ceasefire agreement is ambiguous in defining where separatist-held territory ends. He believes Mariupol belongs to the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic.

The rebels, increasingly isolated in a pocket of land next to the Russian border with limited supplies, desperately need the southern port city to trade goods.

And so tensions here are rising. A Ukrainian checkpoint on the road leading to the Russian border is now completely closed, the road ahead towards the frontline and the rebel-held town of Novoazovsk eerily silent.

Ukraine's president, speaking with the German chancellor, has accused Russia of a "brutal violation of international law." This followed claims that an armored convoy including 32 tanks had entered eastern Ukraine.

The Ukrainian soldiers are nervous, fearing the next rebel attack. And within hours, it comes. "We've recorded an increased number of incidents to the east of the town," says Alexander Hug, the OSCE's deputy head of mission, speaking on a visit to Mariupol.

But local residents are stoic, and many remain loyal to Kyiv. "Mariupol is Ukraine. We are Ukraine," one old lady tells me.

At another frontline checkpoint on the road between Mariupol and Donetsk, Ukrainian soldiers from a Kyiv-based battalion carry out final controls on traffic driving in and out of rebel territory. They say fighting has escalated in recent days and they are now expecting a major assault from forces who they describe as "Russians."

"We have very heavy artillery fire from the Russian side on the Ukrainian villages, border line and Ukrainian forces, so now we are preparing for their attack," says Yegine Karas, a soldier at the checkpoint. "But when they come here they will take very big casualties because it's our land and we will not retreat."

The checkpoint is isolated and exposed, particularly as night falls. A lookout soldier stands on a roof, scanning the surrounding fields through binoculars. The troops at this checkpoint also act as eyes and ears for fighting units dispersed in the countryside near rebel positions and back them up from sniper positions.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has pledged to send more troops to bolster forces in the east. At this particular checkpoint, that hasn't happened. "We don't know when we will have reinforcements here," says Karas. "But I think the troops we have here are greatly motivated and also really ready to defend this land."

But there have been multiple unverified reports of rebels also bringing more military hardware and reinforcements into the region, possibly from Russia. The conflict looks set to escalate further.

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